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Bring on the bling this summer





Peony Pavilion a budding ballet

Pages 12-13



Some Wiilly bogus fitness claims

Page 19

# Olympic torch lit on Mt Qomolangma





Photo by Han Manman

# Magic of Meili Mountain

Kawa Karpo, Meili Snow Mountain's mysterious peak, has never been conquered by any human climber, despite multiple expeditions from all over the world.

The mountain is a pilgrimage destination for many Tibetan Buddhists, and its natural features capture the heart of the culture.

Page 20

Page 2

Hand-footmouth won't hinder Olympics Page 3

Burnt out bus not a terror target Page 8

Artists find inspiration in Yunnan

Page 9

Search is on for China's best Brit biz

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# Schedule out for prison reform plan

The government plans to increase its funding of prison administration and start a nationwide reform, a National Judiciary spokesman said recently.

The combination of prisons and enterprises has weakened the administration's punishment capacity. Since 2003, the government has invested more and more public funds to improve the system. About 14 provinces joined the reformation effort during the five-year period.

The goal of reforms is to separate prisons and enterprises to ensure more human treatment.

The administration leaders will be forced to pay more attention to their management instead of focusing on how they can benefit from the prison.

"Before the reforms, when team leaders met, we would discuss how to make more money rather than

how to manage the prison. Now that we are getting enough money to run the prison, there has been a shift in law enforcement goals,' Zhu Dehua, vice-warden of Chongqing women's prison, said.

"We have opened in-prison exam centers for primary school to high school testing. Education will give inmates more opportunities on their release and build their confidence to start a new life. There are about 200 inmates

working on their intermediate sewing certification," Zhu said.

Beijing Qianjin Prison opened up a "Relative Restaurant" and one of the first ever in-prison supermarkets.

"The reforms have made our police team stronger and more specialized. The management is much more humane," Li Yuqian, vice director general of the National Judicial Administration

#### Hand-foot-mouth disease won't affect **Olympics**

By Zhang Dongya

The government is ready to set up public hygiene this summer. Its top target is to prevent the further outbreak of hand-foot-mouth disease (HFMD), the State Council said Wednesday.

As of Wednesday, the number of reported HFMD cases stood at 19,962 across 16 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions. The illness has killed 28, according to Xinhua's tally based on confirmed death reports from provincial-level health bureaus.

The local government has begun to regularly report the latest on the epidemic. It is charged with improving public hygiene and tightening supervision on food safety to minimize the spread of viral and food-borne epidemics

The cases will peak in June or July, as the disease thrives in warm weather, Mao Qun'an, Ministry of Health spokesman, said Wednesday at a disease-control conference organized by the ministry and the World Health Organization (WHO).

"However, it won't affect the Olympic Games, and there is no indication the strain has changed or become more virulent," Mao said, "Other than Fuyang, Anhui Province, which reported the initial outbreak and the most fatal cases, the rest of the country had not reported a rise in HFMD over prior years."

As of Sunday, 1,482 cases of the disease have been reported in Beijing, but that are no fatalities yet,



A kindergarten teacher examines children's hands for signs of infection. Photo By Yuan Zhou

the Beijing center for disease control and prevention said Tuesday.

Two kindergartens in Beijing recently reported cases, and local health authorities have already closed the schools. "Beijing's case is less serious than in past years,' Mao said.

To raise public awareness of the virus and control the epidemic, Beijing Municipal Health Bureau distributed 100,000 pamphlets on how to prevent HFMD to childcare centers and schools.

To control the spread of the disease, primary schools and kindergartensare required to have daily morning checks Large-scale group activities must be kept to a minimum.

Fuyang is reportedly the worst hit, with 22 fatalities. Medical experts have been sent to Anhui to assist local HFMD relief work.

Authorities in Anhui Province punished 10 doctors and officials for malpractice related to the HMFD outbreak that has caused 22 deaths in the province.

#### Liquid deliveries banned during Olympics

By Jackie Zhang
The State Post Bureau has banned delivery of liquid goods nationwide during the Beijing Olympics to ensure security. According to the bureau's emergency notice, all packages will be examined. In cities where Olympic events will be held, such as Beijing and Qingdao, the examination will be stricter.

Liquids, including shampoos, perfumes and massage oils, are banned from all forms of mail service, the report said.

Perfumes and shampoos are

technically liquid chemical products and can be dangerous in certain situations. The ban is in effect nation wide.

China Courier Service recently released a notice on postal delivery that bans all liquid chemicals from delivery. Non-liquid chemicals and medicines can be handled at designated post office windows. All powder goods are forbidden as well.

Packages, especially those sent to Olympic-related venues, hotels, hospitals and government offices, will be scanned thoroughly.

#### Digital Bird's Nest housing opens

By Bai Jingnan

Net-surfers around the world have been able to visit the "Digital Olympic Village" (2008.com.cn) and design a Bird's Nest's net house number since April 30, the 100-day countdown marker for the Beijing Olympic Games.

To mark the start of the "Digital Net House Number," China Post issued its first limited global stamp on April 20.

The "Digital Net House Number" address consists of a country code, division number, telephone number and I-dno.com. It is an integration of Internet, mobile phone, land-line telephone, netware and GPS.

Net-surfers will have the chance to visit the "Digital Olympic Village" Web site and design a Bird's Nest's digital house number and vote for their favorite. The winning number will be included in "The Nest" for life.

"Digital Olympic Village 2008.com.cn," the Web site, provides catering, accommodation, travel, tourism, shopping and entertainment information in Chinese, English, French, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, Arabic and Portuguese. The distribution of information without a language barrier is one of the cornerstones of the 2008 Beijing "Green Olympics," "Hi-tech Olympics" and "People's Olympics."

The digital house system will gradually include options for

#### **Brief news**

#### **Energy-criminal** servants under investigation

The government will launch a special investigation of public servants involved in energy and environment-related according to a conference held by the Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP) Wednesday.

The 18-month special investigation, starting this month, will target derelict public servants who are involved in criminal acts that abuse energy resources and harm the environment.

The investigation will investigate those who have helped criminals evade punishment.

It will also target public servants who illegally approve land acquisitions or who illegally transfer land ownership at below-market prices.

#### Sulfur dioxide emissions drop 12%

Beijing's sulfur dioxide emissions dropped 12 percent in the first quarter compared to last year, with the total decrease at around 8,000 tons, the city's environmental regulator said.

The reduction was attributed to the city's intensified efforts in recent years to cut sulfur dioxide emissions in major industrial projects and restructure big power plants.

The city removed sulfur dioxide from major power plants, which were mostly fueled by coal, by replacing the fuel of small boilers with clean energy sources. It also installed an electrical system for residents in old homes. many of whom continued to use coal-burning stoves.

(By Jackie Zhang)



of Tian'anmen square Thursday, as part of their preparation for the coming Olympic Games.

Photo by Ren Qiu

# Bus fire reignites security fears

A deadly bus fire in Shanghai, Monday, was caused by a passenger who carried on board an unspecified, flammable "oil-like" material, local police said Tuesday.

The police did not specify the nature of the oil and said further investigation was underway.

The fire killed three and injured at least 12 on a crowded bus during the morning rush, according to a preliminary assessment report released by the Shanghai Public Security Bureau. The bus was engulfed in flames and reduced to wreckage within several seconds, witnesses who escaped the disas-

Two of the dead were Shanghai women, but the identity of the dead man remains unknown, police said

Shanghai police are searching for the person responsible for starting the fire, who passengers said brought a knit handbag onto the bus, *Beijing News* reported.

The hand-knit bag was placed two rows behind the driver's seat and suddenly ignited on its own," Liu Kai, a passenger on the bus now hospitalized at Changhai Hos-

ilar recollection, but no one can remember who brought the bag on board, the report said.

A witness working at a nearby restaurant said some bystanders speculated the fire was caused by a bomb, but heard no explosion or saw any reason why it was anything other than an accident.

Beijing Today's inquiry to the Shanghai Public Security Bureau went unanswered. An official at the office who answered the phone said the fire was an accident, and ruled out the possibility of terrorism.

However, authorities are on edge about security since the threemonth count down to the Summer Olympic Games

Shanghai will host the Olympic qualifier rounds of soccer, and it's also one of the nation's major economic centers. Security has been noticeably increased in recent weeks at airports and foreign consulates.

Deadly explosions and fires are not unusual in crowded urban industrial centers. Shanghai buses ignited twice this year in incidents confirmed as mechanical failure.



Bystanders suspected the bus was bombed

Photo by Xing Kong

# Blind actors perform classic parable

By Zhang Dongya

Theater director Lin Zhaohua has produced a drama based on The Blind. The cast features 12 actual blind people who are not professional. A new round of performances begins Sunday evening at Chaoyang Culture Center; the first round closed last Sunday.

Belgian playwright Maurice Maeterlinck's The Blind has been staged in many countries, but Lin Zhaohua is the first director to cast blind people in the drama.

'Although they cannot see, their hearts are bright and clear, Lin Zhaohua said, "Their hearts are what they will convey to the audience.

The 12 actors, the oldest 65 and youngest 17, are masseurs, students and retired workers. They were required to have a good voice and a solid understanding of drama. "We changed twice during the twomonth rehearsal, since some of  $them\,failed\,to\,express\,themselves$ 



The performers in rehearsal.

Photo provided by Linzhaohua Theater Studio

on stage," Zheng Xiaojie, director of the Beijing Hongdandan Education & Culture Exchange Center, the co-organizer of the drama, said.

The hardest thing for blind actors is the problem of position. Stones are placed on the stage to help the actors find their marks. Also, since they cannot see the instructors' facial expression or the movements, they had to be asked to touch their faces or feel their movements.

'Since they are not professionals, they had a hard time remembering the lines," Zheng said,"They could not speak their lines naturally, so we had to invest a lot of time teaching them

The play, written in 1890, is

a parable about twelve blind religious devotees who find themselves abandoned on an island by their priest. In fact, the priest lies dead on stage the entire time. The blind, being blind, cannot see  $that-thus\ their\ predicament.$ 

Lin refused to sell tickets and opened the show for free. To watch the drama, dial 8599 1188 or  $8406\ 1117$  to reserve a seat.

## Subscriber takes action against China Unicom for spam SMS

Beijing Xicheng Court had its first hearing this week in the case of a subscriber who is suing China Unicom and its advertisement provider for sending spam SMS messages.

Wang Cong, a subscriber of Shenyang Unicom, said the flood of SMS spam seriously disturbed his life.

Wang said he had been a China Unicom subscriber for 11 years. Like most subscribers, he was flooded with spam SMS every day.

However, in February, Wang received a spam message about wine during a meeting with a client. Wang said he was in a foul mood

that day and the message made him feel worse. The same spam advertisement arrived the next day while he was taking a nap.

Wang called China Unicom's 10010 hotline and the Ministry of Information Industry to complain, but received no satisfying feedback.

During the hearing, Wang said that nowhere in his contract with China Unicom did he agree to receive commercial advertising. He asked the court to stop China Mobile and its provider from sending him spam messages, to apologize and to pay him 3,333 yuan.

Cao, manager of the provider company, admitted that his company sent Wang the wine advertisement. However, he said sending advertisements to mobile subscribers was a normal practice and no different from spam e-mail or televised advertisement blocks. China Unicom said it and China Unicom in Shenyang were two separate companies, and Wang filed suit against the wrong company.

The Xicheng Court has not yet ruled. However, SMS spam has been an increasing source of anger amongst the public in recent years. It peaked on March 15: Consum-

Over 300 billion SMS messages were sent and received last year. A huge chunk of the figure is junk messages, such as false advertisements, pyramid schemes and other problematic messages.

CCTV, the biggest state-run TV station, broadcast a program of Focus Media Wireless, a listed company at NASDAQ, which was illegally obtaining subscriber information to send users spam SMS. Focus, which claims 50 percent of China's mobile advertising market, was seriously damaged when the scandal broke.

Li Yizhong, minister of Information Industry, gave a speech on tightening control over spam SMS before the May holiday.

#### Taoist temple resumes services after decades halt

By Jackie Zhang

Dongyue Temple, located at Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie, is the biggest Taoism Zhengyipai (Orthodox Oneness Sect) temple in North China. Last Saturday, a consecration ceremony formally reopened Dongyue as a functional Taoist temple.

Dongyue Temple was built in 1319 during Yuan Dynasty (1206-1370). Since 1949, it was continuously appropriated by schools and working units, which forced a stop in services. The Central People's Government declared the temple a Cultural Relic of National Importance in 1996. It reopened as the Beijing Folk Arts Museum in 1999 after renovation, but the bulk of the temple remained devoid of priests and Taoist events.

Yuan Zhihong, supervisor of the temple, said it began preparing to resume services in January. On April 14, eight Taoist priests moved into the temple and began regular duties. "Every morning and evening, we have ceremonies in the temple. People are free to come in and talk with us. The consecration ceremony last weekend was the formal start of the resumption of services," Yuan said.

"Starting Qing Dynasty, a big temple fair was held on the 28th day of the third lunar month every year. Last Saturday was the 28th, so the ceremony was held then," Huang Xinyang, chairman of Beijing Taoism Association, said.

"Big events will now be held in the temple every year," Nan Qichang, secretary-general of Beijing Taoism Association, said.

However, Yuan said there will not be any major events before the Beijing Olympic Games. "We need to collect suggestions about the temple's daily operations first. The financial situation is also a concern. Another seven priests will join the temple eventually. Hopefully our financial conditions will be mature by then and we can offer larger services and events," Yuan said.

He invited people to attend and participate in daily services from 7 to 8 am or 5 to 6 pm. "People interested in Taoism or devotees can join us for free. They can also discuss Taoist issues with us. We can help people to plan and hold special ceremonies, but those are not free."

#### Third round of Olympic tickets for Beijing venue sold out

By Annie Wei

The third-round sale of domestic Olympic tickets for Beijing venues sold out within two days after the sales started at 9 am Monday, according to the Olympics' official website.

Tickets for the soccer tournament in co-host cities Shanghai, Shenyang, Tianjin and Qinhuang-dao, as well as tickets for equestrian in Hong Kong are still available.

A total of 1.38 million tickets for 16 sports, including boxing, soccer, volleyball and basketball, were put on sale in this round both at Bank of China outlets and on the official website.

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# Bicycle rental market back peddling

By Zhang Dongya

The bicycle-rental service, which expanded last year in the country, offers great convenience not only to residents but also travelers. Although most people applaud bicycle-rentals, only a few rent the two-wheelers, and the market is not

#### Bike boom

Beijing Bicycle Rental Services, a Beijing-based company carried out a rental project last year. According to the project, Beijing planned to have 50,000 bicycles for rent across the city ahead of the 2008 Olympic Games to curb pollution and ease traffic jams. About 200 bicyclerental stations will be established around subway gates, financial areas, transport junctions, office buildings, hotels, communities and universities.

"No matter how perfect public trans-portation is, it cannot solve the problems of terminal traffic jams, and public bicycles can make up for that," Wang Feng, director of the Chinese Bicycle Associa-

There are several bicycle rental companies in Beijing, including Beijing Bicycle Rental Services and Join Bike. Join Bike has established as many as 150 rental sites, with more than 3,000 bicycles for hire.

#### Rental rates unreasonable

"It's getter better now with warmer weather arriving," an employee at Dawanglu station said, "Most customers are office workers and travelers. Local residents seldom rent bicycles.

Some citizens did not know about the rental services, and thought the bicycles on the road had been purchased. Others only know they are for rent but with no further details.

Too high a deposit charge is considered the main reason why few people rent. "With a 100 yuan rent charge added to a 400 yuan deposit fee for a yearly rent, you might as well buy a new bike," Fan Li, an expert on vehicles said, "For the people who have to rent a bicycle in a hurry, it is not convenient since not everybody has 500 yuan at their disposal.



The bicycle rental stand at Baiwanzhuang Lu, Xicheng District.

Photo by Wei Yao

Citizens also complained about too few stations for returning the bicycles. "Once I rode to my destination but failed to find a place to return my bicycle," a citizen said.

Some people worried about losing the bikes. Renters are not held responsible for the theft of a bicycle if it is parked at a site of the service network. But when sites are limited, cyclists have to be concerned

A customer service manager, surnamed Zhang of the Join Bike Company, said that the public's old beliefs are the biggest obstacles. "They don't agree with the fee and believe it's wiser to simply buy a bicycle with that money," Zhang said, "But they ignore one fact, the bicycle they rent can be shared by other people. Also, for people who cannot take a subway train near their home or workplace, it is best to rent a bicycle or they'll be forced to buy two bicycles.3

Zhang also admitted that there was still much to do in the rental business, like more stations for rent and return and popularization of the rent project.

"All in all, it is lack of good environment for riding and renting a bicycle. There are many more cars, and the bicycle lanes have become much smaller, also bicycles are frequently stolen in the city,' Zhang Shiqiu, a professor of Beijing University said.

Bike rentals on the rise

The bicycle-rental stations around the subway gates of line 2 have been completed and began operation recently. The rental stations of line 1 and line 5 are under construction and expect to open this month. With the completion of bicycle rental stations along the subway lines, more people can choose to ride a bicycle on exiting a subway station.

The rental services have been improved with extended operation times and more flexible bicycle-return methods. Also, more IC cards are being put to use in bicyclerental systems, and more functions like reporting a lost card were added recently.

There are still no special departments in place to manage such rental companies and no regulations.

# The smoking ban may go up in smoke

When the first day of the smoking ban went into effect in Beijing on May 1st, a lot of problems popped up. Many non-smoking activists received verbal abuse from smokers. A man surnamed Zhang was even beaten on a bus trying to persuade a smoker to put it out.

#### The ban

For a country China has the most smokers in the world and a long history of smoking. In some ways, smoking is a big part of the Chinese culture. Can a smoking ban

According to the ban, as of May, 28 types of public areas such as schools, sporting venues, hospitals and shopping malls are required to forbid smoking. People caught smoking in these public places will be fined 10 yuan and enterprises and other units that violate the ban will be fined between 1,000 and 5,000 yuan.

#### **Under pressure**

According to reports in several local newspapers, in most of the smokingforbidden areas, the ban was very effective, but in bars, small restaurants and internet cafes, the new regulation was

Concerning most of the middle and smaller-sized restaurants, it is very difficult to set up smoking and non-smoking areas



Smoking has been banned in public locations since May. Obvious signs are everywhere to alert people. Photo by Nan Shan

since space is very limited.

With over 2 millions of smokers in Beijing, how can the government guarantee smokefree in public areas with only a piece of paper banning it? Although part-time inspectors were hired to control smoking in the public areas, no professional anti-smoking workers have been organized.

There are 40,000 restaurants in Beijing according to the statistics of the Public Health Department of Beijing. It is impossible to set a unified standard for all of them. And a 10yuan-fine is no big punishment or hardship for a smoker.

According to research from the WHO and the requirements of the global non-smoking agreement, the smoking area should be isolated from the non-smoking area if the entire establishment cannot be made into a smokefree space.

"At present, the executers of the smok ing ban number no more than 2,000. And they are under great pressure to carry out the ban. In reality, the non-smoking ban, is merely a non-smoking promotional campaign, only suggesting citizens not smoke in public areas," the campaign organizer in Dongcheng District, said.

#### Test period

"Because of the varied areas and sizes of business operations, we hope to collect more public opinion during a test period of the ban. Then we will set up detailed rules of carrying out the non-smoking ban," Rao Yingsheng, vice president of the Beijing Committee of Patriotic Public Health Campaign, said.

"From May, about 100,000 inspectors were hired to work in public areas to control smoking. All of them have been trained and wear the same signs. Citizens can also call 12320 to report smokers they see smoking in public areas and who won't extinguish their butts after a warning," Rao said.

To most non-smoking supporters, the ood news is that the anti-smoking clinics filled up fast when the non-smoking ban was carried out recently. "It is hard for a smoker to go cold turkey all by himself. With the help of doctors, the success rate of smoke-refraining programs can be greatly increased tripled or quadrupled," Doctor Su from Beijing Sino-Japanese Friendship Hospital, said.

According to the other countries' experiences with banning smoking, no big economic loss ever occurred in restaurants. "Actually the restaurants attracted more customers with the ban in place," Yin Xi, a non-smoking supporter and also the vice president of the American Non-Smoking Youth Campaign, said.

# Executives tangled up in visa changes

(FT) - Changes in China's visa policies are causing widespread consternation in Hong Kong where businessmen have long taken easy access to the mainland for granted.

 $Responding \ to \ inquiries \ from$ chambers of commerce, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Hong Kong office said that the issuance of multiple-entry visas had not been suspended, but asked overseas visitors to secure China visas in their home countries before landing in Hong Kong.

It was not long before dozens of applicants besieged the official with questions as a long queue snaked around the China Resources building in Wanchai District.

Costs could rapidly add up for foreign executives. The Hong Kong office charges US citizens HK \$1,020 (US \$131) for either a single-entry or a multipleentry visa. British citizens are charged HK \$450 for singleentry permits or HK \$890 for a six-month pass.

"There are a large number of people here with regional  $responsibilities-executives\ who$ travel frequently - and it is disruptive for them in time, effort and money," Richard Vuylsteke, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, said. "People flow is the heart of the success in this area, and to have that restricted sends a bad message.

#### Official response

By Huang Daohen

Recent visa policy is based on international practice, Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said Tuesday.

China's recent visa policy arrangements did not mean the suspension of multiple-entry visas and due arrangements have been made in line with the prac-

tices of previous Olympics.
"We made due arrangements regarding the visa applications of foreigners based on the practices of previous Olympics and other large-scale international sports events, and in consideration of Chinese laws and regulations," Qin told a regular press

He said the arrangements have been made to ensure a safe environment.

"The Chinese government and people will adhere to the opening-up policy and welcome foreigners to work, study and travel in China," Qin said.

He said China's visa policy was more convenient for applicants than those of many other countries. For example, China does not demand visa applicants be fingerprinted or have their irises or corneas scanned, which some countries do.

#### Final Everest torch assault begins

(Reuters) - Chinese climbers carrying the Olympic flame will make their final attempt to reach the summit of Mount Everest on Thursday morning, officials said late Wednesday.

"The command center gives its order for the final assault tomorrow," Shao Shiwei of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games, told reporters.

Bad weather over the weekend denied mountaineers the chance to take the flame to the top of the world's highest mountain in what the government hopes will be the defining moment of the torch relay ahead of the Beijing Games in August.

But calm, sunny weather over the last three days has allowed the climbers to repair damage to their camps and organizers are confident the flame will be burning at the 8,848-meter peak on Thursday, exactly three months before the Games open.

The 12-strong team, chosen from a pool of 31 climbers, will be led by Tibetan Nima Ciren and backed by a team of seven more mountaineers, Shao said.

#### Gov investigates Google for illegal map

(AFP) - The government has launched an investigation into online mapping services by Internet giants including Google and Sohu in an effort to protect state secrets and territorial integrity, People's Daily reported.

According to Min Yiren, vicehead of the State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping, authorities hope to get rid of online maps that wrongly depict China's borders or that reveal military secrets, People's Daily reported Monday.

The government began the investigation into the problematic maps in April and will continue it until the end of the year, according to the report.

Min cited five areas of concern, with the redrawing of China's borders and placing disputed territory outside the nation as top priority

#### Vietnamese arrested for selling newborns

Qiu Jiaoning

(AP) - Authorities in north $ern\,Vietnam\,said\,Wednesday\,they$ have arrested six people sus-pected of trying to sell two newborn babies in China as part of a baby-trafficking ring.

Police in the Chinese border town of Dongxing on Monday detained the six Vietnamese while they were transporting two 10-day old boys and returned them all back across the border, Nguyen Thai Binh, deputy police chief of Mong Cai in northern Vietnam, said.

Police acted on a tip from the Vietnamese authorities monitoring a smuggling ring, he said.

Initial investigation showed that the four men and two women were paid by ring leaders in Ho Chi Minh City in the south to transport the two babies to China

### Canadian traveler sang festival songs



Randy noel, a traveler from Canada, performed two songs at the tourism culture festival in Zhanjiang, Guangdong Province Noel was invited to visit Zhanjiang by a Chinese friend on the Internet. **CFP Photo** 

### Country's foreign investment not a threat

(Reuters) - China's growing overseas investment is a natural consequence of its development and should not be viewed as a threat, says the man tipped to be a top official in its US \$200 billion sovereign wealth fund.

Jin Liqun, the country's vice minister of finance between 1998 and 2003, said the country's deployment of its massive reserves abroad is positive for the global economy as a whole, adding that Africa had become an early beneficiary.

"Developed countries want to come to China for business and they regard this as normal. But

when China's wealth fund starts to invest overseas with minority stakes, why is it such a big issue? Jin asked on the sidelines of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) annual meeting.

"I think a change in the mindset on the part of the developed world is important," he said.

Jin's term as a vice president at ADB ends in July, but he said he was not aware of what his next move would be.

"I certainly want to go back (to government). How the government wants to deploy me, I don't know. Let's see," he said.

Uneasiness in the industrial-

ized West over China's growing economic clout - embodied by its recently-launched China Investment Corp (CIC) sovereign fund - has deepened with the global credit crisis sparking off fears that state-owned Chinese companies will buy up their cashstrapped Western counterparts.

"As China, India and other Asian countries grow ... I don't think CIC is the last (sovereign wealth) fund of developing Asia," Jin said, adding that China's overseas investment would be "prudent," avoiding excessive risk to protect its national wealth and without creating

foreign misconceptions about its intentions.

He said the country not only bought assets in Africa, but forgave debt there and provided infrastructure and medical aid.

Jin, who turns 59 this year, acknowledged criticism that China, despite its large reserves, had not done enough for poorer countries and had taken more than its fair share of development funds.

"There are critical voices, hostile comments from some quarters in the Western world, but we shouldn't regard these as mainstream," Jin said.

# Nation's grain supply and prices steady

By Huang Daohen

The country has sufficient stockpiles of grain to keep domestic prices stable, its economic planner said Tuesday.

China always views basic selfsufficiency in staple grains such as rice, wheat and corn for its 1.3 billion people to be a national strategic priority, the National Development and Reform Commission said in a statement on its Web site.

With grain prices soaring internationally it is moving to ensure domestic supplies and curb exports, the statement said.

**Olympic** 

emblem

unveiled

By Huang Daohen

emblem

opment

2009-2012.

commercial

The Olympic Committee

vesterday

program

The new emblem is com-

posed of traditional Olympic

rings and a Chinese part

featuring the country's main

Inspired by Chinese calligraphy, the two-half-ring

design calls upon all sectors

of the community to work together, said Liu Peng, sec-retary for the State Sports

General Administration and

President of the Chinese

At present, the Chinese Olympic Committee uses two

emblems: the official "Danc-

ing Beijing" emblem and the

commercial emblem. The latter emblem will be used

to seek cooperation between

enterprises home and abroad, and to promote the Olympic-

related economy.

Olympic Committee.

colors: red and yellow.

unveiled its new commercial

launched its market devel-

Official statistics show that reserves across the country can meet demand for at least six months.

Rice, a staple food for most Chinese, makes up more than 70 percent of grain reserves, the commission said.

Figures show that the country's output of rice topped 185 billion kilograms last year, a bit more than the domestic consumption of 180 to 185 billion kilograms.

"Our grain supply and demand is basically steady, our reserves are full and we

can guarantee the supply and stability of grain prices," the statement said.

The nation's grain production has increased in the past four years. It exceeded 501.5 billion kilograms last year, a rise of more than 70 billion kilograms from 2003, the statement said, and is almost equal to the annual consumption of 510 billion kilograms in China.

The statement came at a time of skyrocketing rice prices in the world market. Internationally, rice prices more than doubled this spring while overall food prices have risen 83 percent in three years, according to an estimate by the World Bank.

Surging prices have sparked riots in Haiti and several African countries, while raising worries over supplies in the Philippines.

China this year has decided to strictly control grain export to ensure domestic supply and fight inflation, abolishing tax rebates, levying temporary duties and imposing quotas on the export of some grain products like rice and wheat, Xinhua reported.

#### Stainless steel makers cut output in May

Stainless steel makers are cutting output and building stocks this month as weak demand squeezes profits, and many big producers are chopping spot sales for May in half compared with April, trade and company sources said.

China's two largest stainless mills, the parent companies of Shanxi Taigang Stainless Steel and Baoshan Iron and Steel, are among those that have halved their spot sales volumes for this month, the sources said.

Chinese stainless steel makers had already been trimming output and accumulating stocks since mid-2007 as they grappled with sagging product prices and volatile raw material costs. But weakening demand, as tighter credit bites into the business of domestic users, has forced more drastic measures

#### Microsoft to build R&D center in Beijing

By Huang Daohen

Microsoft said Monday it will invest US \$280 million to build a research and development center in Beijing and significantly expand its research team in the country.

The new R&D campus, set to accommodate 5,000 employees, will become Microsoft's largest research center outside the US when it is completed in 2010, Zhang Yaqin, the company's China chairman, said

"Through investments such as this, we are building on our capabilities as one of Microsoft's key global R&D centers," Zhang said.

He said the company will hire 1,000 new research employees in China in the next fiscal year, which starts in July.

Microsoft opened its first R&D center in China in 1995. It now has research facilities in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen.

#### Chinese firms triumph in US battery suit

By Huang Daohen
A US court recently ruled on the patent infringement claims of a US battery maker, ending a lengthy case against Chinese battery manufacturers.

This case also marks the first victory of Chinese enterprises in such trade disputes.

"It lasted five years and cost millions of dollars, but the victory marks a perfect ending," the China Battery Industry Association said in a press release.

Experts said the win will put Chinese battery enterprises in a better position to tap overseas markets, the US in particular, which have seen an annual twofold increase in recent years.

A recent report released by the Ministry of Commerce said Chinese enterprises are facing increasing trade barriers.

Yu Benlin, deputy chief of the ministry's bureau of fair trade for imports and exports, last week said enterprises should take the lead in dealing with these suits and protecting their interests.

# Gov't takes bite out of Pringles, bans US imports



According to the report issued by the Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) Wednesday, as many as 593 batches of foreign food made the low-quality food black list. Pringles potato chips were made the list a second time

As many as 200 enter-prises from home and abroad, including fast food king McDonald's and shoe giants Nike and Addidas, attended yesterday's launch. A total 54 enterprises have inked deals with the Beijing Olympic Organizing Committee as Olympics partners, sponsors or suppliers for the 2008 Olympics.

Statistics from the Olympic economy research association show the capital's total Olympics-related investment is expected to reach 300 bil-



中国奥委会

Popular potato chip Pringles has been blacklisted by the country's import watchdog after two batches imported from the US in January and February were found to contain cancer-causing chemicals, a Shanghai-based newspaper reported today.

The chips, made by Procter and Gamble, in Zhuhai City, Guangdong Province, were found to contain potassium bromate in July by the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, National Business Daily reported.

The snacks remain available in Shanghai. A shop assistant at a supermarket on Huaihai Road, Xuhui District, said the store had not received any notice to remove the products from its

shelves, the report said.
P&G China said most of the chips sold in the country were produced in China and could not contain potassium bromate, the report said, citing a public relations official of the company.

The seized chips imported directly from the US. They may have met US standards, but failed China's, the official added.

The official suggested that if consumers want to purchase Pringles, they should choose

ones made domestically, the report said.

Potassium bromate is not completely banned in some countries, including the US and Japan. The World Health Organization has suggested banning the substance for it may damage organs and nerves. Some international cancer institutions have listed the substance as a carcinogen.

China banned the chemical's use in food processing in 2005.

All domestically-made foods in Shanghai tested safe during the third quarter of last year. according to the city's Quality Inspection Bureau.

(Agencies)

# ELJING TUDAY

# CCTV need not apologize for false report

Bu Huang Daohen

Should media apologize for its biased coverage? China Central Television (CCTV) defeated a lawsuit in which a towel factory sued the broadcaster for libel, *Beijing Times* reported Tuesday.

CCTV's Weekly Quality Report, a weekly program exposing defective and lowquality products, reported on March 27 last year that towels manufactured by a company in Jinzho, Hebei Province, contained careinogens.

However, an official test report released after the broadcast denied that the towels contained such substances, though the products were of low-quality and failed to meet quality standards.

The towel factory subsequently sued CCTV, claiming that its report had hurt its reputation and caused loss. They also demanded a public apology.

The Beijing First Intermediate Court recently dismissed the charges, saying that "manufacturers should always be prepared to

tolerate sharp criticism from the public and the media."

Though editorials in main Chinese newspapers ruled the court's decision as a remarkable improvement for supervision of public opinion, netizens suspect the case may undermine media ethics by giving it more leverage to get away with untruthful reporting.

The New York Times suffered the same fate in 1960 when it was attacked by Sullivan for its libelous advertisement. The case extended the First Amendment's guarantee of free speech to libel cases brought by public officials, and reshaped American libel laws.

#### Comment

#### Big vs small

In this duel between media and company, the media is overwhelmingly more powerful than the tiny towel factory. The result would have been different if the plaintiff was a prominent, large company, and if the defendant was a less-influential media organization, or if a local court had presided over the case instead of a Beijing court.

– commentator, Beijing Times

#### To tell the truth

The court's ruling cannot inhibit the media if there are distortions in the reporting but false reporting will definitely lead to the demise of the enterprise.

– Simon, college student All media vulnerable

Unlike in the US, case law is not part of China's legal code, which means judges don't need to follow precedents. So even though CCTV won its case, it doesn't mean other media will be immune from similar charges.

- Eric

#### Let it he

Be more tolerant of the media. The media is not a law enforcement department, therefore cannot not obtain evidence by force

No media can guarantee 100 percent accuracy, and it would be impossible for the media to

function if small mistakes are not allowed.

#### Jun Lee, IT designerNo comparisons

I am not a lawyer, but I do like reading about the law. When anyone compares a verdict in the Chinese legal system to a landmark US freedom of speech case, I'm going to do some digging.

I don't think the CCTV case is related to that of the New York

Times. Sullivan was a public official who sued a private company and four private citizens, all black clergymen. He claimed they libeled him in an NYT advertisement.

The only thing that these two cases have in common is that they were legal suits that happened on the same planet.

– jg, netizen

(Source: danwei.org)

# National flag flying regulated

Bu Huang Daohen

National flags are no longer to be hung outdoors for commercial use in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, a recent regulation in the city's Jiangning district said.

The new regulation ruled that merchants in the city's business area cannot hang national flags privately, in addition to specific times like national holidays. "The move is to unify flag use," it said.

The public, however, was frustrated by the regulation. Zheng Rao, an owner of a restaurant in Nanjing, bought two flags and planned to hang them outdoors as an expression of his patriotism and support for the Olympic Games.

"I was pretty sad when the torch relay was disturbed outside of China recently," Zheng said, "Why can't I hang the flag and show a little support for my country?"

Zheng suggested that the local authority should revise the ruling.

Referring to public controversy, the director of the district's development and reform commission Mao Renzhu said the measure would be carried out on the city's landscape streets and it was a necessity to protect the unified management of the city's image.

Shengtai Street where Zheng's restaurant is located is a main commercial landscape venue and is a role model in the upgrading of the city's appearance, Mao said.

Besides, the new step would also curb those who illegally use the flag in advertising, he said.



College students at the Beijing Institute of Technology hung flags of the country outside the dormitories. A spokesman at the institute said it was rational behavior to express students' patriotic spirit.

#### Comment

#### A non-commercial flag

It is true that some shop owners use the national flag to attract customers. Some even invert it and paste ads on it. Aside from the flag law, there should be a regulation to protect the flag.

– Rauni, secretary

#### Unreasonable reason

It is necessary to enforce certain rules on the merchants in order to standardize the city's business environment and landscape. However, I don't think the "image upgrading for the city" reason

is proper grounds for the law enforcement department to carry out the new measure.

Wang Junhua, localFly the flag freelyEveryone has the right to

Everyone has the right to fly the national flag, as set out in the constitution.

If there are violations of the flag law, the merchant should be punished accordingly. Otherwise, local authority should not interfere with the public's patriotic acts.

– Jessie, student

#### Mind your own business

I don't really like to connect patriotism with flying flags. If you are patriotic, what you can do best for your country is to mind your own business, instead of causing trouble.

– Jane Huang, editor

# Suitman autographs his work

Suitman autographs his work with all the profits going to the village.

#### By He Jianwei

In the exhibition of The New Grand Tour, five artists based in New York shared their experiences from their tour with Yunnan Province through art, sketches, paintings, photography and video. The exhibition organized by Diesel started last Thursday and will end on May 25 at the DNA Space in 798 Art District.

#### A cross-cultural tour

The New Grand Tour is a cross-cultural art journey whose aim is to bring together artists with hyphenated cultural and geographical background and to promote interactivity among cultures and the multi-faceted world of art. The project will redefine, revive, change and reinvent the old concept of "The Grand Tour" to be more than just the 18th and 19th century privileged trip for the

The inaugural trip started on October 20th, 2007 in Shanghai, and from there, the creative quintet embarked on a 10-day trip through the beautiful landscapes and villages of southwestern China. On their journey, they absorbed the breathtaking historical Chinese surroundings, visited schools, and participated in art exchanges with local Chinese artists. Inspired and in awe of China's culture and people, the five artists began producing new work drawing inspiration from their journey.

The artists include José Parlá, a Miami native of Cuban heritage living in Brooklyn, New York, Romon Kimin Yang, a Korean American known as Rostarr, Davi Russo, a native New Yorker of Italian heritage, Deanne Cheuk, born in Perth, Western Australia of Chinese decent, and Young Kim, a Korean American living in Hong

# Five artists become inspired by Yunnan



Suitman took photos of Yunnan Province school children who experienced his style.

### Kong, also known as Suitman. **Creativity inspired by the land**

These five artists and a production crew set out on their journey to explore the famous Shangri-La of James Hilton's novel *Lost Horizon*. They travelled the countryside between the border of Yunnan Province and the Tibet Autonomous Region

and were surrounded by beautiful valleys, lakes and the rivers of Jinsha, Nu, Nanpan, Yuan and the Yiluowadi River.

"I read Hilton's novel several years ago, when my brother gave me the book. Although it is not exactly the same as what Hilton described in his 1933 novel, the landscape in Shangri-La is amazing and unforgettable, so I

#### Photos provided by Mediaedge

painted it for my brother," José Parlá said.

The artists created new works within their respective mediums inspired by the travels and environment of the places they visited. Some were really moved by the mountains or the clouds. The group first took off from Shanghai to Kun Ming as they reached Lijiang to visit



The artists and their friends on the tour.

Shangri-La county and the Meili Snowcap Mountains. The artists also walked and hiked throughout the country side and experienced the natural beauty of the Western Tibetan landscape.

Parlá adopted bright colors in his paintings. "When I saw what the minority people wore, I was stunned by their fabrics, which seemed to be rich in each color," he said.

#### **Suitman sensitivity**

Besides their trip, Young Kim initiated the Suitchild Adoption & Donation Program, which produced 24 classic signature portrait photographs of school children located in the South West of Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Tsitang town which is 70 kilometers from Shangri-La County.

The school was founded by the reincarnated Bakha Rinpoche in September 2002 on his own retreat property. There are 115 students, including 81 boys and 34 girls approximately — aged eight to 25 years old in the school.

The pictures of the school children are a record of the primary school students' experience with the Suitman's style and attitude. "Maybe some of them are having their picture taken for the first time in their life and it will leave them sweet memories," Suitman said.

Each photo print comes with an adoption certificate value per set to supply each particular student in the photo with necessary school materials for an entire year, as well as school repairs that include electricity, window insulation plumbing, furniture and doors to keep out the harsh winter.

The adoption certificate and photo prints are accompanied by a signed limited edition soft sculpture figure of Suitman as part of the package. Profits from the sales were delivered directly to the school by Suitman himself.

"The New Grand Tour" made its first stop in Hong Kong with an exclusive group exhibition. Presented at Diesel's Brave Gallery, the exhibition ran successfully from November 3 to 27, 2007; receiving praise and acclaim from artists, fans and media alike.

#### Super-sized American begins weight loss journey



Alonzo Bland, a 640-pound American, attempts to slim down in Tianjin hospital. Photo by jwzhao

Alonzo Bland, a 640-pound man from the US, arrived at the Tianjin Aimin Fat Reduction Hospital on Tuesday to start a oneyear weight loss journey in China.

Bland, 32, standing 182 centimeters, is from Green Bay, Wisconsin. He won a national contest titled Winners in Life, sponsored by a company called China Connection. The prize is one year of free treatment in China.

He tried numerous weight loss products in the US but failed to shed many pounds.

"I want to get my weight down to 200 pounds. I won't go home until I succeed," Bland said at the hospital, which focuses on diet and exercise along with herbal medicine and massages.

cine and massages.

On Monday evening, Bland traveled to Tianjin from Beijing by air at 8:10 pm. Although he was the first to get off the plane, he quickly fell to the ground, gasping and it took some time for him to be helped up and become mobile again.

A tracheal tube helps him breathe, offsetting the effect of the

fat on his chest and neck, which presses against his windpipe. "I will die if I don't lose weight," he said.

Masaru Kato of Japan, a patient in the hospital, welcomed Blandat at the airport. "I was the same as him awhile back. As long as he carries on, he will succeed," he said. Kato reduced his weight from 617 pounds to 243 pounds in 2003 when he first came to the hospital.

Bland plans to keep a video diary of his progress over the next year.

(By He Jianwei)

# Businessman starts search for country's best Brit company



By Jackie Zhang

The search for China's best British businesses began Monday evening with a party in a British Embassy's bar. With beer and wine, 100 members of British Chamber of Commerce in China and staff from the embassy, British Council, UK Trade & Investment and Confederation of British Industry, gathered to discuss the award and Jim James, its initiator.

Jim James is a businessman himself. In 1995, he established his own public relations company in Singapore, which provides communications programs and helps clients achieve their goals. "British companies are everywhere in the world. I hope to provide them help and link them with more people,' James said.

When he saw the opportunities and the increasing number of British enterprises in China, he came to Beijing to start a branch company in 2006. "China is a bigger market than Singapore, and as a result, we

face more obstacles here," James said, "Obstacles can be overcome. The problem we are facing now is the change of rules and regulations. But I think changes are good, and can make things better and more normal,' he said.

In Beijing, James became a member of the British Chamber of Commerce. "I know there are many British companies running their business and developing here. But there is not a special event or award to help and encourage them," James

said. "Few Chinese people know about British companies in China. I hope that there is a way to boost British companies' reputation amongst Chinese people."

He landed on the idea to establish business awards last September.

"When I raised the plan for the awards, I got support from the embassy and British Chamber of Commerce. I also succeeded in getting support from several other organizations,

#### Information about British **Business Awards**

The first ever British Business Awards, organized by the British Chamber of Commerce in China, began Monday evening in the embassy.

All British Chamber of Commerce Members, Chinabased British-owned companies or organizations, China-based companies or organizations with UK links, as well as employees can be nominated for the awards. Companies need to hand in written applications and conduct interviews.

For companies, there are four awards: Company of the Year, Innovative Product, Corporate Social Responsibility Program and Entrepreneur of the Year.

Alumni of the Year, a new award category for Chinese scholars who have studied in the UK, is also included in the awards. It will recognize the contributions of Chinese UK alumni to business and cultural ties between the UK and China.

The closing date for applications is July 18, with online voting open August to September 26. The judging panels will make their final decisions and announce the five winners in early November. To participate, visit the official Web site at britishbusinessawards.cn.







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# Top golfers tee up for the Pine Valley Beijing Open

Asian top golfers India's Ghei. Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee and China's Zhang Lianwei are making their debut at the Pine Valley Beijing Open, which teed off yesterday.

Indian star Ghei returned to the course as the defending champion to battle his way through the strong Japanese field.

He enjoyed his third victory on the Asian Tour at last year's tournament and with the event being sanctioned by the Japan Golf Tour for the first time this year, along with the Asian Tour and China Golf Association.

"It's great to be back here. Returning to an event which I have won before is always special," Ghei, said.

Hoping to return to the leading fray since his top-ten result at the EMAAR-MGF Indian Masters in February, the New Delhi-based Ghei is determined to emulate his

"Defending a title is very tough but no one can take away the fact that I was the first ever to win this event last year. There is a strong Japanese field here and that will make it a real challenge out there so we'll see what happens," he said.

Among the top Asian Tour stars are Korean youngster Noh Seung-yul, who finished runner-up at the GS Caltex



Top Asian golf players gather at Beijing Open.

Maekyung Open Golf Chamand Sushi Ishigaki. pionships last week, former

Wiratchant and former US PGA Tour player Scott Hend. The Japanese contingent featured their winning stars Tetsuji Hiratsuka, Katsumasa Miyamoto, Hiroyuki Fujita, the 2003 Okinawa Open winner,

Asian number one Thaworn

"I hope to do my best and take the top spot. It is very exciting for all the Japanese players to be able to compete here and I'm sure we will all try to impress in our first tournament outside of Japan," Miyamoto said. He won the curtain-raising event on the Japan circuit this season at the

Token Homemate Cup.

Thai star Jaidee is prepped and ready for battle at the Olympic city hoping for a turnaround since his back injury earlier this year.

"My back still hurts slightly and I missed the cut in Shanghai because of it, but I hope that won't happen here," Jaidee said.

#### Event

#### The Commonwealth Society in Beijing Charity Gala

The Commonwealth Society in Beijing is a non-profitable association mainly devoted to organizing fund raising activities to devote to charities in China. Funds raised will be donated to a needy charity or charities in China.

To buy tickets for the charity gala or give donations please phone the Embassy of Malta (Ms Julie) at 6532 3114.

Where: China World Hotel Ballroom, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie

When: 6:30 pm, June 6

Cost: 350 yuan for an entrance ticket, 50 yuan for raffle ticket Tel: 6532 3114

#### **Cheung Kong executive** round-table

China is now moving into a phase of development where multinational corporations face new challenges in a more competitive environment. On this new stage, the multi-national corporations (MNCs) in China must re-examine their strategies and operations. The Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business will organize a round-table discussion and buffet for top executives from different industries to focus on these issues. This meeting will feature Dr. Binsheng Teng's new research on global acquisitions involving Chinese firms as buyers and as targets.

Where: The Residence III, Level P2, Grand Hyatt Beijing, 1 East Chang'an Avenue, Dongcheng Dis-

When: May 12, 6:30-8:20 pm Tel: 8518 8858

#### **Lecture: Color Analyses**

Geraldine Wijsbeek, a visiting Image Consultant from the Netherlands, will talk about the subject of colors, including the history, meaning, expressivity, power, symbolism, quality of color and its characteristics and make-up.

Where: Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmagiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: May 12, 7:30 pm Cost: 350 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341 (Monday-Friday, 9am-6pm), 6432 1041 (weekday mornings and evenings; and weekend, rerouted to mobile

#### **African Drum and Dance**

Obiwan Kenobi and Together Bar will have a night of African drumming and dancing with renowned West African djembe master Sunny Dee. Experts and novices are all welcome and drums and percussion instruments will be provided. There will be two hours of drumming followed by an hour of jamming, with all kinds of performers from around Beijing and beyond.

Where: Obiwan, 4 Xihai Xiyan, 200 meters from the Jishuitan subway, Xicheng District

When: May 9 Cost: free

Tel: 6617 3231 Where: Together Bar, near the Sanyu Hotel, Guoma Qiao, east side of 3rd ring road, Chaoyang District

When: May 11, 4-7 pm Cost: free Tel: 13911315545

(By He Jianwei)

### Colombian movies come to Beijing

By Zhang Dongya

The 2nd Colombia Cinema Festival 2008 started Wednesday at the Cervantes Institute in Beijing. Eight movies including Indian Ambassador were brought to the event which will last for two

Like the first cinema festival held last year in Beijing, eight Colombian movies in Spanish with English subtitles will be shown at a hall with a 100-seat capacity for free.

The Colombian embassy officials and people from other countries attended the opening viewing. "Good

movies selected to play at the event, including award winners and some showing Colombian life," Luis, administrative assistant of the Colombian embassy in Beijing said. "We hope more people will know more about Colombia through

these films."
"We also produced a video of the people and customs of Colombia to give a better understanding of Colombia,' Luis added.

"I think the first event

was very successful, because it helped promote the Colombian culture in China. People from many countries came to see what Colombians thought about, so it was a good way to show the country's way of life and culture," Alejandro, a spectator who attended the last year's event said.

Some of the movies show a little bit about Colombia over the last ten years, and some talking about presentday Colombia, Alejandro said. "Colombia is so much more than what people hear in the news or read in newspaper. There are so many good things about the country and this is a good opportunity to present those positive elements," Alejandro said.

The 3rd festival with more movies is about to open this September, Luis said. In addition, other events like performances from Colombia will be held later this year.

Where: Cervantes Institute, Jia1, Gongtinanlu, Chaoyang District

When: 7 pm, till June 25 (every Wednesday)

**Tel**: 5879 9666



Photo provided by Beijing Youth Daily

#### 35 Canadians take part in the Olympic fire drill

By Yang Wanli

The Beijing Programming Exhibition Hall was on fire! The salvage corps rushed in to the hall and fought the blaze in an orderly fashion. The only unusual thing was that nobody at the scene was frightened because it was a fire drill.

The salvage corps of Chongwen District held a fire drill at the Beijing Programming Exhibition Hall On May 4th to prepare for any accidents during the Olympics.

"Since many foreigners will come to Beijing in 2008, 35 Canadians were invited to participate in the fire drill," an officer said.

The fire drill was held in the Canadian Home of the Olympics at the Beijing Programming Exhibition Hall since Canada will operate the Winter Olympics in Vancouver in 2010. Canada was willing to take this opportunity to demonstrate its sites and exchange ideas.

According to the plan, at 5:30pm, the Canadian Home of the Olympics caught fire with two people trapped inside. Officers at the exhibition hall dialed 119 immediately. Five minutes later, three fire engines and 30 firemen rushed into the building and carried out their duty in orderly fashion.

Several minutes later, two Canadians were safely transported out of the building. At 5:45pm, the fire was successfully extinguished with no injuries.

Get pets prepped for the Games at Chaoyang area

By Annie Wei

With the approaching Olympic Games, authorities are getting stricter with rules and regulations.

The International Center for Veterinary Services (ICVS), one of the very few international standard veterinary clinics in town was recently notified of a new regulation from the China Agricultural Bureau's Centers for Animal Disease Control certifying that animal vaccinations and official immunity certificates (vaccination red books) were to be issued at legally-registered and officially designated animal vaccination hospitals.

In line with this new regulation, the ICVS asks that all pet owners with the ICVS-issued vaccination immunity certificates (red books), bring them to the ICVS forcertification and stamp by the Chaoyang District Centers for Animal Disease Control. The authorities will certify that:

1 All of the animal vaccines are legally registered and are approved.

2 All vaccines were properly administered

No fee will be charged to the pet owner for the service at ICVS.

Many pet owners might take their pets out of China. This animal vaccine certification program will help ensure a smooth exit process for all pet owners who must present an official vaccination immunity certificate (red book) to the Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau at the time of exit.

The Entry-Exit Inspection and



Chaoyang District Center for Animal Disease Control vaccine pets at local communities this week.

Photo by Wang Jian

Quarantine Bureau recognizes and accepts the vaccination immunity certificates issued by the ICVS as a legally-registered and officially-designated animal vaccination hospital in China. With both the official stamps from ICVS and the Chaoyang District Centers for Animal Disease Control in the vaccination immunity certificates (red books), pet owners will be assured of a smooth process at the

ICVS said that if someone's

pet ever bites another animal or person, or if the pet is bitten by another animal, the owner will be able to prove to the Public Security Bureau and all other parties that the pet has been legally and properly vaccinated. The law requires all dogs to be registered and vaccinated for rabies annually.

Pet owners who are receiving their vaccination immunity certificates (red books) for the first time, will be provided with the newest versions of the officiallycertified vaccination immunity certificates (red books) with both the official ICVS stamp and the stamp from the Chaoyang District Centers for Animal Disease Control.

Where: The International Center for Veterinary Services, Kent Center, No. 29 Liang Ma Qiao Road, An Jia Lou, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8456 1939/1940/1941

Email: ICVS\_CHINA (c)

# Maizidian opens first free estate info agency

By Yang Wanli

A new estate agency at the Maizidian community service center is providing free information about 300 apartments in the area.

The agency, financially supported by the government, was established to provide free rent information and to learn more about population mobility, Maizidian community said

zidian community said.

According to the estate agency, there are 300 apartments on the record. One-bedroom apartments cost 1,500 yuan per month; two-bedroom ones cost 2,500 yuan. It maintains detailed information on 115 apartments, 22 villas and 22 basements.

For the government's first attempt at creating a free estate information agency, it is operating surprisingly smoothly, the agency said.

Many residents said they were happy with the service and that it improves community security.

There are 20,000 long-term tenants in Maizidian, about 40 percent of its total residents, Maizidian community said. The estate market is not well regulated.

#### Kids celebrate theater festival

By Gan Tian

For the first time, young audiences under 10 years old can walk into the National Center for the Performing Arts to experience the shows. The Beijing International Children's Theatre Festival, opening next Thursday, will offer audiences six shows from all over the world.

The opening show, *Red Children*, *Honghaizi*, is a production of the Beijing Children's Theater. It tells a story of children during the revolutionary period in China. Many Chinese songs from that time will be performed, bringing the audience back to an age of great passion.

The dance Rameau's Magic World, performed by the French dancing troupe Montalvo Elwes, will be the closing performance of the festival on June 14 and 15. The show will portray a vivid example of Rameau's works in French opera and the kingdom in the time of Louis XIV.

The Beijing Children's Theater also works with Japanese famous illustrator Miyanishi Tatsuya, bringing his work You Look Like Delicious, Ni Kanqilai Hen Haochi, to the theater. The show tells a story that takes place in the Cretaceous period, where an evil tyrannosaurus rex longs to be the father of another small dinosaur. Tatsuya even paid a visit to



Actors rehearsing the child's play You Look Like Delicious.

Photo provided by Beijing Children Theater

1 , 3 3		
Theater	When	Ticket price
Red Children, Hong Haizi	May 15 to 21	80-580 yuan
The Babe, Baobei'er	May 23 to 25	40-380 yuan
You Look Like Delicious	May 28 to June 1	50-500 yuan
Cao Fangzi, Straw House	June 3 to 5	40-380 yuan
Nutcracker	June 6 to 9	60-380 yuan
Rameau's Magic World	June 14, 15	40-380 yuan

the theater to see the rehearsals. He gave high praise to the Chinese adaptation of his works, and mentioned that the young generation needs more soul food now.

Besides these performances, there will also be the Russian children's ballet Nutcracker, Jinan Children Theater's Baby, Baobei'er, and the Sichuan People's Art Theater's production Straw House, Caofangzi. Audiences can book tickets by calling 6655 0000 or 8404 8732, or go to the center's official Website at chncpa.org.

#### **ASK** Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiying@ynet.com

I've been studying in Beijing for several months and want to read more Chinese books. But I found that some books in Beijing are expensive and there isn't a great range. I love browsing used books shops and finding old books. Where should I go?

If you are looking for books, I recommend you visit the Beijing Book Fairs at DiTan Park. You can take subway line 2 to Yonghegong station and then walk less than five minutes to get there. You'll find many Chinese books, new and used, on all subjects, and also many foreign books, some are obviously surplus or from overseas bookstores. Many bookstores offer discounts there.

#### I am a visitor in Beijing and am now living in Wudaokou. Is there any direct bus service to the Ming Tombs?

There is no direct bus to the Ming tombs. You can take the 845 going north from the bus stop south of the Xizhimen subway station, and change to the 314 bus at Dongguan. Another option is to take the 345 bus from Deshengmen bus station, near the Jishuitan subway station to Dongguan and then change to the 314.

#### My friends and I decided to go to a bar in Sanlitun, but we know nothing about it. Do you have any suggestions?

It is hard to say which bar meets your needs because we don't know what your tastes and requirements are. You should do your own research online, take down a few names that seem interesting, and then ask about those specific places.

## Are there any cheap and clean swimming pools near the Lido Hotel?

There is a swimming pool which is a five-minute walk from the Lido hotel. The building's name is Jia Jing Tian Qiang on Jingshung lu, just next to the Courtyard Marriott and the pool is on the 3rd floor.

#### Can anyone recommend some good Chinese music? Is there any Chinese indie rock? Preferably with a link to youku or similar.

Try Twist Machine, Yaksa, AK-47, XTX and Cold Animal for metal, The Suffocate, Chun qiu, Zhan Fu, Dian Fu, Ming Jie for heavy and trash metal, CMCB for Hip Hop, The Reflector, Hang on the Box and other many locals for Punk. Zi Yue and The Sand are also popular ones.

Not sure if they all have links online, but you can find them easily through Google or Baidu.

(By Yang Wanli/ Wei Ying)



The enlongated flowing light and the huge white 'peony flower' add to the atmosphere in which Du's <u>ghost meets Liu</u>

By Yu Shanshan

e National Ballet of China NBC), China's leading ballet company, whose credo is to "explore the unique fusion possible between classical ballet and Chinese culture by choreographing and creating its own ballets,' has embraced a list of "Chinese ballets." Among them, The Red Detachment of Women created in the 1960s and Raise the Red Lantern, based on the 1991 film by Zhang Yimou, are still being performed.

Since 2001, when the Red Lantern first hit the stage, the company has been busy collaborating with international ballet powers and strengthening its other goal - "introduce Chinese audiences to Western classical ballets and contemporary ballet works." It revived Fountain of Tears (2002), Sylvia (2004), Le Corsaire (2005), Roland Petit's Carmen, Pink Floyd Ballet (2006) and Romeo and Juliet (2007). After seven years, the company finally made up its mind to give the ballet treatment to a Chinese classic, The Peony Pavilion.

"I was just too picky," Zhao Ruheng, director of the company, said. "It took time to find a proper work, and was even more time consuming to gather together a perfect team to realize the work."

As in choosing a partner to stage western classic and modern dance, Zhao was bold in opening the gates to artists from the world of ballet. In the narrative ballets, she invited drama, movie or Chinese opera directors to work together with the choreographers. The ballet Peony Pavilion's

NBC, was led by an international team boasting big names like drama director and playwright Li Liuyi, costume designer Emi Wada, composer Guo Wenjing, stage and lighting designer Michael Simon, as well as NBC's young choreographer Fei Bo.

Before meeting Li Liuyi, Zhao had seen many of Li's directed works. One of the country's most versatile directors and playwrights, he is famous for his daring experiments in adapting Chinese classical stories, and has rich experience in directing drama, Chinese opera, and Chinese classical literature. "I'm only missing ballet on my list," Li said.

In their discussions, both found they share the same aesthetic view, which led to their decision to work  $together.\ ``His\ knowledge,\ background$ and experimental spirit are what the NBC needs," Zhao said, "Our collaboration is not merely based on certain work, but on a mutual appreciation. We understand each other, and after our chats, we sat down to choose the

right piece to adapt," Li said.

They chose The Peony Pavilion, a late 16th-century Chinese opera that is renowned as a classic of the Kunqu regional style. The full 55-scene,  ${\tt 20-hour\,show, written\,by\,Tang\,Xianzu,}$ is considered one of great masterpieces of Chinese literature, "It's not only the Kunqu people's responsibility to pass on their 400-year heritage, but that of the whole nation. We are curito her death. She languished in the netherworld, and was resurrected after Liu Mengmei, her dream lover's reallife counterpart, discovered her picture in a garden. After struggling with her father, the two married with the emperor's blessing. This is the original plot.

Unlike the story-telling-movie way of dance in Raise the Red Lantern, Li chose a surreal way of taking on this classic tale. "The story starts from a dream, and dreaming is the truest expression of one's subconscious," he said. Just like in a psychological movie, Li divides one into three representing the three sides of the heroine, and lets them play out on stage. The one in white symbolizes real-life, another in red represents Du's true inner world that desires love, and the last is dressed in a Kunqu costume, to pay tribute to the original work. The setting deliberately weakens the pressure of the plot and strengthens the psychological perspective of the characters.

Tang Xianzu was around the same time as Shakespeare. When portraying love and sex, the Chinese culture tends not to be as blunt and open as the western culture. "How to transform a 400-year-old Chinese story, famous for its beautiful lyrics, into a modern ballet that can be understood all over the world, presented Ms Zhao with a tremendous challenge," Li said.

It was also a daunting task for Fei Bo, the NBC's young choreographer. This is his first independent choreogra-

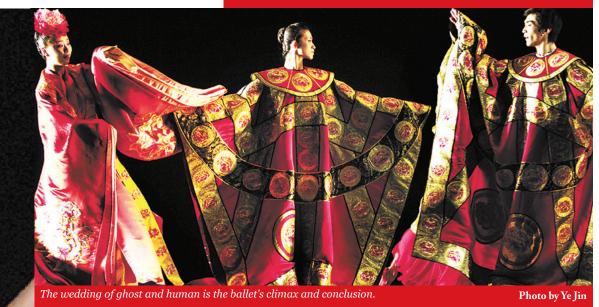




Zhu Yan, middle, as Liniang in real life, is h and the Kunqu version, with Kunqu actress

# pavilion

The National Ballet of China introduces the new experimental Peony Pavilion to express its own version of Chinese ballet



and finds herself experiencing vague sexual feelings. Her mind tosses and turns but she has no way to vent her feelings of frustration," Fei said. He finally captured the emotion, expanded it, and expressed it in dance. "Each of her movements mirrors her inner feelings," he said

In the opening scene, Du Liniang in real life, dressed in transparent white, is taking a nap in a chair placed center stage. The love-hungry Du Liniang, in her mind, dressed in red, appears behind Du and the two dance a duet. The Kunqu Du Liniang shows up at the side of the stage and moves in a beautiful ghost-like way, as the humming Liniang expresses her desires inside her head.

The stage and costume designs add to this dreamy atmosphere.

The story that unfolds in the dream world of Du Liniang needs no concrete set. Michael Simon, the lighting director, hung a huge peony flower and tree branch on the stage and projected an elongated flowing light, resembling a stroke of Chinese characters, on the back curtain. The duet of Du Liniang and her lover Liu Mengmei, takes place on a sloped square. The whole design was reminiscent of the Chinese version of the dream scenes from Hitchcock's *Spellbound*.

"Very important for me is the dimension of the stage elements and their relationship to the body of the dancers. There should always be an interaction possible, so the set is not a background but a partner to the dancers." Simon explained.

Though experienced in designing costumes for films (Ran, Hero, House of Flying Daggers) and operas (The

First Emperor), Peony was Emi Wada's first effort in designing ballet costumes. Her initial draft was a less-is-more style for comfortable dancing. But Li Liuyi hoped to have them look more luxurious. Wada went to see Kunqu, did research on Ming Dynasty style dress, and finally created a multi-layer series, which can be put on or taken off to express every step of the inner changes of the three Du Liniangs.

So longing to see her lover in her dream, Du Liniang falls ill and dies. In the spirit world, before Du Liniang attempts to persuade the Black and White Ghosts and the Judge to let her return to real life, Li played a humorous trick – with the help of the China National Acrobatic Troupe, a chick, puppy and pigeon were used to represent the next lives of certain people according to their characteristics and this joke earned a little smile from the audience.

Back stage at the Tianqiao Theatre before the media rehearsal, two staff members talked about the music. It took quite a long time to compose, and afterward, a longer time for the orchestra to gel with the dancers.

Composer Guo Wenjing said he wanted to be playful with the composition. It is his first time writing music for ballet and for dance and it took him one year to finish. The music mixes his original work, with Kunqu, rivaling Ravel and Debussy. "Dreams have no limits. Why not make the music less serious?" he said.

Li Liuyi said he wanted to form the dance in the fashion of the original Kunqu. His creation includes a change to the ending, which originally had more people, like the emperor and Du Liniang's father, who played their parts in deciding the two lovers' fate in marriage. Li Liuyi halts the dance just as Du comes back to life and designs a wedding between the ghost of Du Liniang and real-life Liu Mengmei. "Should that really be the climax of the play – a man marries a ghost, and the entourage accompanying them includes humans and ghosts? I think it's enough to stop there," Li said.

The first round of performances

The first round of performances ended on Thursday at the Tianqiao Theatre. The public and media, as usual, applauded the effort. "History has shown that most current masterpieces reach their pinnacle as a result of audience pressure," an NBC insider said.

"This is an experimental ballet," Zhao, director and producer of the company, said. "We worked hard on it, but still hope for plenty of constructive criticism."

The dance is not a movie. The good thing about it is that you can revise it time after time and finally it will reach maturity, like *Raise the Red Lantern* in its present form, the insider said.

He concluded that The National Ballet of China is a pioneer of Chinese ballet. Its re-staging of Romeo and Juliet fuelled a fire under other Chinese ballet troupes. After the success of *Raise the Red Lantern*, ballet companies like the Liaoning Ballet and the Shanghai Ballet followed suit, adapting stories from the same period – *The Last Emperor* and *In the Mood for Love*. People could not help but think after seeing *The Peony Pavilion*, will a new wave of ballet adaptation from Chinese classical literature appear now?

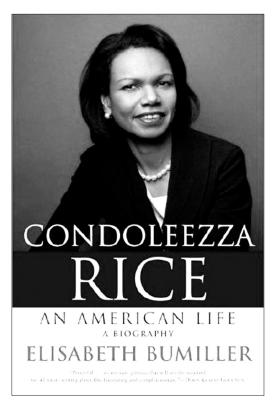


aunted by her love-hungry-mind, in the form of Zhang Jian at the back Zhang Yuanyuan, in front. Photo by Sun Xuemei

Photo by Ye Jin Michael Simon gives the stage a dreamy touch.

Photo by Sun Xueme

# Condi, an American life



#### By Charles Zhu

When Condoleezza Rice decided to give up her music career and turned to political science in her teens, she could not have imagined she would one day be the first black woman Secretary of State of the US.

For Condoleezza, a name taken from the Italian musical notation con dolcezza, with sweetness, the road was long and hard as she was taught that in order to succeed in the white world, she would have to be twice as good.

Elizabeth Bumiller in her Condoleezza Rice, An American Life (400pp, Random House, US \$27.95) tells readers how Condi – as she likes to be called - grew up the only child of a Presbyterian minister and a music and science teacher. She chose to study international affairs at the University of Denver and majored in Soviet affairs in particular under Professor Josef Kobel, a Czech refugee who was the father of Madeleine Albright.

Her expertise in Soviet affairs served as a medium linking her with the senior Bush. Brent Scowcroft made her his Soviet expert on the National Security Council staff when he went to serve as the secretary of state. When Brent said, "Well, Mr President, today we're going to talk about the Gorbachev-Yeltsin problem," he would turn to Condi and the Stanford associate professor would give her briefing. The President "was captivated by her." In this way, Condi forged a personal bond with the senior Bush beyond the usual relationship of a president and his staff, and that would pave her way into the administration of the son.

It was an interesting story by which the younger Bush came to know her. In April of 1998 George W Bush, then governor of Texas, visited San Francisco for a fund raiser to support his presidential campaign. George Shultz, Ronald Reagan's former secretary of state, invited him to Stanford University to meet some scholars of the Hoover Institute. Rice was the only woman and the only black person. Condi had a lot to say about foreign affairs topics, and impressed the younger Bush. Three months later, the invitation came to ask her to go to Austin when he made the announcement that he was thinking of running for president. The following month she was invited to the Bush summer home at Kennebunk, Maine, for a meeting.

"He had never met anyone like Rice. She could talk baseball, football and foreign policy all at the same time, but she did not sound like an intellectual and she never made him feel inadequate or ignorant. On the contrary, Rice made Bush feel sharper, particularly when she complemented him on his questions," Bumiller writes. "Bush did not know many black people well, and it made him feel good about himself that he got along so easily with Rice. It was hard not to see that she was also attractive, athletic and competitive, and, like him, underestimated for much of her adult life.'

#### An umbrella to weather the world

By He Jianwei

Employed by a high-end shoe manufacturer to test new products, the hero of Wilhelm Genazino's An Umbrella for This Day (translated by Liu Xinghua, 180pp, Shanghai People's Publishing House, 22 yuan) spends his days wandering the streets of Frankfurt, encountering ex-girlfriends and experiencing the mystery of life.

Many Chinese readers were attracted to the bestseller since it's January publication date by the phrase printed on the book's cover, "People sense that their lives have become nothing more than one long drawn-out rainy day, and that their bodies are no more than the umbrella.

The hero is a middle-aged man "living without inner authorization" - so he says who rambles the streets and observes life. The whole book is about what he sees and thinks. Everything that he sees, smells and hears can always make him associate the happiness and sorrows, including his childhood, his failed relationships with his ex-girlfriends and his lack of professional motivation.

This novel is the chronicle of his unlikely adventures while overcoming angst and dislocation, a story at once poi-

gnant, profound and hilarious. Through his eyes, ears, nose and mind, readers observe him as he has an afternoon interlude with his hairdresser, begins a new relationship, talks with a friend and failed photographer, takes a pay cut and begins work as a flea market vendor.

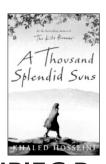
As the 2004 winner of Germany's highest literary prize, the Georg-Buchner-Preis, Genazino writes a fun-to-read book packed with dry humor, irony and a witty appreciation of the absurd.

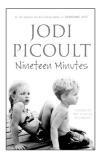
"This book makes me as a stealer of someone else's memories," Stella Huang, a magazine editor, said, "Everyone spends his or her life bored, waiting for something to happen or disappointed at what does." Philp Boehm translated this book into

English in 2006, but renamed it to The Shoe Tester of Frankfurt (132pp, US \$14.95, New Direction Press).

#### **About the author**

Wilhelm Genazino, born in 1943 in Mannheim, Germany, has published eight novels, a trilogy and two collections of essays. His literary honors include the Bremer Literaturpreis (1989), the Hans-Fallada-Preis (2003) and the Georg-Büchner-Preis (2004). He lives in Frankfurt.







#### **CNPIEC** Bookstore book listing

The China National Publication Import and Export Corporation's (CNPIEC) bookstore recommends the following new arrivals to Beijing Today readers.

#### A Thousand Splendid Suns

By Khaled Hosseini, 384pp, Bloomsbury Publishing PLC, 130 yuan

Mariam is only 15 when she is sent to Kabul to marry the troubled and bitter Rasheed, who is 30 years her senior. Two decades later, tragedy strikes 15-year-old Laila, who must leave her home and join Mariam's household. Time passes and the Taliban comes to rule over Afghanistan; life is a desperate struggle against starvation, brutality and fear, and the women's endurance was tested beyond their worst imaginings. In the end, love triumphs over death and destruction.

#### The Assault on Reason

By Al Gore, 320pp, Penguin Press, 190 yuan

When George W. Bush ordered American forces to invade Iraq, 70 percent of Americans believed Saddam Hussein was linked to 911. Voters in Ohio, when asked by pollsters to list what stuck in their minds about the campaign, most frequently named two Bush television ads that played to fears of terrorism. Drawing on a life's work in politics as well as on the work of experts across a broad range of disciplines, Al Gore has written a farsighted and powerful manifesto for clear thinking.

#### **Nineteen Minutes**

By Jodi Picoult, 512pp, Hodder & Stoughton, 90 yuan
Sterling is a small, ordinary New Hampshire town where nothing ever happens – until a student enters the local high school with an arsenal of guns and starts shooting, changing the lives of everyone inside and out. The daughter of the judge sitting on the case is the state's best witness - but she can't remember what happened in front of

#### her own eyes. **CNPIEC Bookstore**

Where: the second floor of CNPIEC, No 16 Gongti Dong Lu, Chaoyang Open: 8:30 am - 6:30 pm

Tel: 6500 1859, 6592 6871

(By Zhang Dongya)

# By He Jianwei

Lease life

to the fullest

Many young adults in China prefer to rent luxury products rather than buy w rem wanty products rather man buy them. While purchasing a race car may be beyond the reach of their 9-to-5 De Deyonu de reach of dien a way to paychecks, rental gives them a way to paychecks, renial gives their rented pets consume and enjoy. Their rented pets consume and enjoy. Then remed proprovide a few weeks of fun before provide a rew weeks or run before the heart client. The being shuffled off to the next client. nbande in tentals is changing Chinese They are ordinary office workers in patterns of consumption. thing are originally orner womens in they are not rich, but they drive Bentley cars and wear GUCCI fashion. Definey cars and wear out rasmon.

They rent famous products, but never purchase, as a way to realize dreams.

**CFP Photo** 

#### Top rentals

On the Internet, the following items are the most rented by Chinese people.

You may want to keep a pet, but the reality of the situation is you also must have enough time to care for it. If you do not have time and still desire a pet, you can rent one on the weekend. The cheapest pet rentals run 20 yuan

#### Potted plants and flowers

If you are not confident about keeping potted plants and flowers, you can rent some. The agency will ensure they are always green and flowering.

Women always love to buy handbags and different ones to match different clothes. The famous brand handbags are expensive. To rent a handbag is a wise choice.

#### Luxury cars

Lamborghini, Rolls-Royce and Bentley top the wish lists of most of men. If you cannot buy one, rent it for a day.

If you love to have parties in your home and you are not good at cooking, you can rent a chef from a hotel.

#### **Groomsmen and bridesmaids**

When the one-child generation starts to marry, finding groomsmen or bridesmaids could be a tough task. Just rent them

#### Formal dress

There is no reason to buy formal clothes if you will not wear it to work. However, if a death or wedding is around the corner and you are in a pinch, just rent a dress or suit: it will be much cheaper.

#### Membership cards

A membership card for a gym usually costs thousands of yuan a year. Even if you can afford it, you may not have enough time to get your money's worth. It is a better idea to rent a card when you decide to hit the spa. Card rentals come as cheap as 10 yuan per day.

#### **Jewelry**

Jewelry is precious, but not precious enough to be worth bringing budget battles into a newlywed home. For a small fee, you can rent priceless jewelry.

love cars and my dream is to drive all famous race car brands," Jason Han, 26, a programmer in an IT company, said. As a child, Han was familiar with different models. He started

Rip up the road in a rented race car

to collect model kits of cars as a middle school student, but the plastic pieces could hardly satisfy. He began leasing race cars last year, and has had fun ever since.

Han has driven a BMW Z series, a Porsche and a Bentley, "but my biggest dream is to drive a Lamborghini," he said.

He only saw a Lamborghini in magazines and he knew it was out of his reach. "There are few Lamborghini drivers in Beijing. If I'm lucky enough to see the car, I will be content just to touch it," he said.

Three months ago, Han's dream came true. "One of my friends told me his friend had a Lamborghini and we could go to his house to see it," he said.

Han gave the friend 3,000 yuan to rent it for a day. "The sound of the engine still rings in my ears," he said.

#### Rent a professional bridesmaid

Scarlet Tian, 30, a manager in an advertising company, was worried about filling the bridesmaid positions at her wedding ceremony earlier this year.

'All my best friends are married. If I find a younger bridesmaid, she will make me look old. When I heard some companies rent bridesmaids, it was a big relief," she said.

The rented bridesmaid was professional, she said. "She knew the whole schedule and wedding etiquette. She remind me when I had to say something and when it was time for a photo," she said.

Tian's rented bridesmaid cost 600 yuan. "It was a reasonable price to help me deal with a big problem during my wedding,"

#### Rented a plants green forever

Christie Chen, 25, a newspaper editor, loves to buy potted plants, but most die after a few weeks.

She didn't know plants could be rented from her newsroom. "In my newsroom, if the plant doesn't grow well, someone will replace it with a new one," she said.

She searched for the service online and found several plant renters. "I can have various plants in my house at 40 yuan per pot per month. The workers will come to my house every week to check on the plant. If the plant ends up sick, the worker will change it out for another," she said.

#### **Rental Web sites**

jooke.com zuke.com.cn dzuke.com

# 16

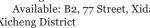
# By Gan Tian With summer approaching, city dwellers should adopt a shining, colorful and powerful look. Bling-bling is the best choice. By introducing new products to you in the past, Beijing Today has found that trends have entered and affected every aspect of your life. So, don't fight the feeling, be good to yourself and enjoy who you are by bringing out the bling. Here are some examples.

#### **Pink bling mobile** phone cover

Mobile phone covers allow you to change your phone's appearance daily. This pink bling cover glim-

mers in the sunshine. If you are between 13 and 19, get it. Older than that? I say, no. For any passers-by, it looks more childish than bling.

Available: B2, 77 Street, Xidan, Xicheng District Price: 70 yuan



#### **Big brands necklace**

"For the fashionista gangsta who wants to have all of his or her bases covered, this bling bling medallion from Chi Ha Paura melds together virtually every corporate logo you can think of into one gold-plated talisman that is most definitely guaranteed to bug Naomi Klein," the owner says on her Web site. Netizens have already discovered several logos: Coca Cola, Nike, Camel, Camel, Kellogg's, Diesel, Gucci, Davidoff, Leica, Nescafe, Rolex ... wow, so many big names on one piece of jewelry - this certainly epitomizes the spirit of bling-bling.

Available: weblogsinc.com Price: unsettled

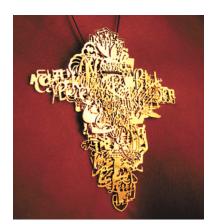
#### **Backstage9 Double Dear Head Tee**

Though black and white may not be the best colors to

represent the bling-bling style, these T-shirts still convey the idea of expressing an individual's own thoughts. When you walk around wearing it in the bright sunshine, the black and white patterns still blast the blingbling into other people's eyes if you hold your head high and demonstrate pure confidence.

Available: F2, 77 Street, Xidan, Xicheng District

Price: 280 yuan



#### **BenQ Bling-Tech series**

BenQ is the first brand to introduce the bling-bling style into computer science. It held BenQ parties in several Chinese cities at the end of last year. Many small diamonds, stones, jewelry and other shiny decorations are carved into the surface of the cold tech-machines, like computers, laptops, cameras and mobile disks

When the cold tech meets this fashion style, it becomes more individualized and personalized. BenQ also emphasizes the spirit of bling-bling, which is to be more confident and passionate about life.

Available: any computer company downtown Price: vary according to the products



#### **Pink bling pencil**

Even your way of writing can adopt bling. This automatic pencil has more than 100 small artificial diamonds on it, all man-made actually they are all simply shiny stickers, but it does not prevent you from adding bling to your drab life.

Available: B2, 77 Street, Xidan, Xicheng District

Price: 10 yuar

#### **Shining bicycles**

I do not think that you can buy this kind of bicycle in China. For most people, bling bicycles are always associated with "bad boys," "gangsters" or "hot girls." See if you can catch the police's attention with this sweet ride.

Available: thisnext.com Price: unsettled





#### **Bling bling origin**

The funny phrase originates in music It first appeared in a song called "Cash Money Records" by B G, and then in 1998 Lil Wayne sang another song called "Millionaire Dream", "I got 10 around my neck and baguettes on my wrist, bling!"

The word "bling-bling" is a case of reduplication. It is a sound to evoke a new idea, or it describes the way jewelry shines. In 2002 the term was added to the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary. Later it became the fashion statement connected to a material life and symbolized a positive attitude towards life since looking for wealth and success requires confidence, courage, patience and hardwork.

It became popular in China in late May of last year and predictions say it will be in full force this summer. Karl Lagerfeld described the style this way "to let it shine from the inside, you have to bling from the outside first.

Secret of Toulouse taste in tow

By Li Fenghua

The Toulouse Food
Festival, held last month at Justine's, the Jianguo Hotel, invited Gerard Garrigues, a master chef from Le Pastel. Garrigues, a recipient of Michelin awards, presented the traditional and modern cuisine from April 16 to 30. Beijing Today introduces more information about Toulouse and spe cial foods from South



Green Asparagus Cream with Poached Eggs

#### The recommended

Using Justine's Toulouse food as an example, Beijing Today illustrates extraordinary cuisine. Starter

Tuna Tartar with Ginger and Lemon Grass Spuma

It is a great mixture of Eastern spices and western ingredients with a simple look. It emphasizes the ingredients' individual

Price: 136 yuan

#### Soup

Green Asparagus Cream with Poached Eggs

Asparagus is a cancerfighting food. It is very healthy, and the soup is scented with it.

Price: 70 yuan

#### **Main Course**

Saltimbocca of Duck Breast, Cannelloni of Fresh Morel

It is representative of the flavor of the countryside in Southern France, with the fresh tastes of morel and duck breast.

Price: 182 yuan

#### **Dessert**

Soft Souffle of Caramelized Apples

This is a traditional French dessert. The Souffle tastes nice and the foam is easy to chew.

Price: 70 yuan



#### **Make Soft Souffle of Caramelized** Apples in your kitchen

Ingredients: 1 apple, 2 eggs, 2 tablespoons butter, 1/4 cup sugar **Instructions:** 

- 1. Heat 1/4 cup sugar gently in a frying pan over low heat until a light brown syrup forms.
- 2. Pour half of the caramel into a 2 quart souffle apple, rotating quickly to coat bottom and sides
  - 3. Cool.
- 4. Rub 2 tablespoons butter over the caramel and set aside.
  - 5. Beat egg whites until foamy.
- 6. Add sugar gradually, until stiff peaks form.
- 7. Return the pan to heat to liquefy remaining caramel.
- 8.  $Ad\bar{d}$  this to the egg white mixture, beating constantly. Continue beating at medium speed for five minutes.
- 9. Pour into prepared souffle apple. 10. Bake about 20minutes in the oven until firm, but light.



Saltimbocca of Duck Breast

#### Where to eat Toulous food? Justine's of Jianguo Hotel

As host of the Toulouse Food Festival, should be your number one choice if you want to try French flavor.

Saltimbocca of Duck Breast

Soft Souffle of Caramelized Apples

Where: 5 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Beijing

Tel: 6500 2233 ext 8039

#### **Fauchon**

Representing the exquisite foods of France, Fauchon opened its first flagship shop in Beijing last June.

Where: B1-2, Tsing Kong Plaza, 87 Jianguolu87, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6533 1266 ext 8228

#### Maxim's de Paris

One of the oldest French restaurants in Beijing. Enjoy some traditional Toulouse food with an important person in its elegant atmosphere.

Where: F2, Chongwenmen Restaurant, Chongwenmen Xi Dajie2, Chongwen District

Tel: 65121992, 65122211 ext 1031 **Parfum French Restaurant** 

#### Good service and a comfortable dining

environment. Taste its food at a reasonable price and to live piano music.

Where: 19, China Central Place, 89 Jianguolu, Chaoyang District.

Tel: 6530 5799, 6530 5899

# Gerard Garrigues Photos provided by Justine's of Jianguo Hotel

#### Small Talk with the chef

but mixes in some elements from his own culinary exploration. His dishes reflect the pastoral flavor of southern France, with a simple and

At 50, Garrigues began to travel the world to look for new ideas. During his visit in Beijing, he integrated eastern spices and cooked special food for Beijingers.

Beijing Today: What is the highlight of the Toulouse food festival in Justine's of Jianguo

**Garrigues:** One word: fusion.

## BT: How does Toulousean food differ from the cuisine of other countries?

#### BT: How do you like the Chinese food?

G: I have been in the US, Vietnam, Spain, Italy and China. For me, Chinese food is the best.

Chinese food is impressively diverse. It is quite different

between East and West, North and South. And all kinds of ingredients are used effectively. There are ample products to make abundant and different dishes.

#### BT: How about Beijing

ing. It is very inspiring, and has given me a few ideas. I would like

#### **Toulouse and its cuisine**

Toulouse is France's fourth largest city. It is sunny, warm, beautiful and very active. Its historical downtown has a multitude of restaurants and fabulous architecture, and it is known in southwest France for its cuisine.

Traditional Toulouse food includes Soft Souffle of Caramelized Apples and Green

Asparagus Cream with Poached Eggs.

Much of the cuisine is fairly simple, relying on quality fresh ingredients and loving preparation rather than complex recipes. Still, it takes about two hours for a French lunch. Between the common ingredients and simple recipes, most Toulouse dishes can be made at home.



A view of the city Toulouse

#### Dedicate some love to your parents



"Who says the little soul of grass waving; could for the warmth repay the sun of spring. Fileal piety, as a virtue, has long been integrated with common Chinese activities. Spring, the best time of the year, is a perfect time for birthday celebrations and family reunions as well. Why not show your piety with a memorable birthday feast at the

hotel, enjoying warmth of spring and fine service?

What: Birthday Feast Promotion

Where: Grand Metropark Hotel, 338 Guanganmen Nei Dajie, Xuanwu District

When: from present to July

Tel: 8352 9999 Price: 1688 yuan per table A. No service charge

B. Unlimited local beer and soft drink

C. Two-pound birthday cake

D. Book over two tables for one night complimentary accommodation

E. Book over four tables for a one-month gym card or ten swimming coupons.

F. A bottle of local red wine

per table

G. A bunch of flowers or a longevity peach for senior citizens over 60

#### Please note:

One table minimum Bookings from employees acceptable

Birthday party and full moon feast are applied to the same price and promotion.

18

Friday, May 9

**Exhibition** 

Bang - Liu Dahong Solo Exhibition



Where: Aura Gallery, 13 Dongfeng Art Park, 1 Tuofangying Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10 am - 6 pm, until May 25 Admission: free Tel: 8459 8390

Coal Spell



Coal Spell, inspired by the old 5 yuan note, is an account of the rise and fall of Fuxin, an old industrial coal city located in northeastern China. As a result of the experiences and nostalgia of his upbringing, the artist began to question both history and power.
Where: Platform China Contemporary Art

Institute, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11 am - 6 pm, until June 3 Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 0091

Beijing 2008 – Painting, Design, Banknote

Where: F/1-4 Beijing Today Art Museum, Building 1, 32 Baiziwan Lu, Chaoyang When: Daily 10 am - 5 pm, until May 31 Admission: Free

Tel: 5876 9690

Movie

A Bout de Souffle

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

**Exhibition** 

Huang Hairong always uses the theme "water" in her work and

has maintained the continuity of that idea

throughout her creative process, from the

Breathing series to the Image Consump-

Where: Expol-Sources Art Space, 2

When: Tue-Sun 10:30 am - 6:30 pm,

Hong May – Liu Dahong Solo Exhibition

Dahong's works from the past 20 years,

and his newest works of the Temple Series

The exhibition shows the best of Liu

Where: DoART Gallery, 261 Caochan-

Sunday, May 11

Flexible Destroy - Huang

**Hairong Solo Exhibition** 

When: 7:30 pm Admission: 10-20 yuan Tel: 6553 2627

tion series

until May 24

to the public.

Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

Admission: free

Tel: 6431 4793



**Upcoming** 

Opera . Madame Butterfly

Who: Central Conservatory of Music Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of

When: 7:30 pm, May 8-10 Admission: 80-880 yuan Tel: 6655 0000

Saturday, **May 10** 

**Exhibition** 

Wu Xiaohui Solo Exhibition

The works are filled with humor and the together themes run smoothly, making people feel comfortable. trademark character of her figures is the connecting evebrow and nose, which is impressive and easily recognized.

Where: Artist Village Gallery, 1 North of Renzhuang, Songzhuang, Tongzhou

When: Daily 8 am - midnight, until May 31 Admission: 20 yuan Tel: 6959 8343

Thirteen-year-old child genius Yangchun Baixue

**Solo Exhibition** 

Where: Qin Gallery, Enjoy Paradise, Huaweili 1-1E (North of Beijing Curio City), Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 9:30 am - 6 pm, until May 31

Admission: Free Tel: 8779 0461, 8779

0458

Panoramic Humor Universe Shinjiro Okamoto Solo Exhibition

Where: Tokyo Gallery + BTAP, Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10:30 am - 5:30 pm, until May 25 Admission: free Tel: 8457 3245

Movie

Jules et Jim

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Admission: free Tel: 8457 4550, 8477 5158

June 8

Sing at Night - Lin Qinlin Oil Painting Exhibition



Where: Bada Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 1 pm - 6:30 pm, until May 29

Admission: free Tel: 6433 5120

The Silence of the Prairie



Where: Cloud & Sky Photo Image Gallery, C3006 Brewery Art Complex, Beihuqu Lu, Andingmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10:30 am - 5:30 pm, until June 1

Admission: free Tel: 5202 3892

Stage in June

Concert French Piano

Festival 2008 Who: David Krasumer Where: Zhongshan Music

Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng When: 7:30 pm, June 6 Admission: 30-380 yuan Tel: 6559 8306

Tong Vfang Xien Qi **Beijing Concert 2008** 

Who: Tong Vfang Xien Qi Where: Fengtai Sports Center, Fengti Beilu, Fengtai When: 7:30 pm, June 13 Admission: 280-1,280 yuan

Tel: 6417 7845

Sound of the Century

Who: The Chinese National Orchestra

Where: Chinese National Orchestra Concert Hall, 15 Xiaoying Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm, June 23-25 Admission: 50-380 yuan Tel: 6491 9081

The Philadelphia

**Orchestra Special Concert** Who: The Philadelphia Orchestra

Where: Minorities Cultural Palace Theater, 49 Fuxingmen Nei Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm, June 2 Admission: 280-1,680 yuan Tel: 66022530

**Concert by The Pittsburgh** Youth Symphony Orchestra

Who: The Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra Where: Beijing Music Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm, June 19 Admission: 60-580 yuan Tel: 6605 7006

Opera

**Sleeping Beauty** 

Who: The Royal English

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, June 21-23 Admission: 100-1,080 yuan Tel: 6655 0000

Nutcracker

Who: The St. Petersburg Children Ballet Theatre of Russia

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, June 6-9 Admission: 60-380 yuan Tel: 6655 0000

Swan Lake

Who: Royal Swedish Ballet

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, June 6-10 Admission: 100-1,080 yuan Tel: 6655 0000

Fire Bird

Who: Ballet San Jose Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: June 13 Admission: 80-680 yuan Tel: 6501 1854

(By Li Jing)



# The big world of

After Nintendo released its computer game Wii, players could now exercise while playing video games. But does it really have the magical function of making gamers healthier? Beijing Today quizzed several Chinese players to get to the truth.

- 1. When did you get Wii?
- 2. What games do you play on Wii?
- 3. How often do you play Wii?
- 4. Did you ever get hurt while playing Wii?
- 5. Do you think playing Wii makes you healthier?
- 6. What is your attitude towards Wii and health?

#### What is Wii?

The hot Web site for Wii fans wiisworld.com, defines the Wii clearly:

It is the latest games console from gaming giant Nintendo. Released in the fourth quarter of 2006, Wii aims to change the face of gaming. With a revolutionary controller and new types of games, Nintendo is hoping to attract gamers who have never played before.

Nintendo's Web site says that the Wii offers legendary franchises like Mario, Zelda and Metroid, as well as all new classics like Wii Sports and Wii Play. You can create your own Mii character to star in Wii games. Play friends online with a Nintendo Wi-Fi Connection or use the Internet Channel to surf the net from your sofa.

"Take a look around and see why your TV is just not complete without Wii.

#### Calorie burner

After the game came out, a study showed that people playing Wii Sports burned 60 more calories per hour than those playing Xbox 360, a sedentary computer game. It is no wonder that people believe Wii can help you keep fit and healthy.

Nintendo unveiled a new Wii Health Pack. Its Balance Board may be the best peripheral. It is about the size and shape of a white bathroom scale. When you connect it with Wii, it can measure your weight, and even record your

center of mass and body mass index (BMI).

If the player is a beginner, he or she will be given a health check, and stats, such as height and weight, will be recorded. It even can tell you if the way you are standing is healthy or not.

One gamer, Zhang shared her experience of standing on the board. It detected her body shifting from side to side. "Shifts in body weight is an enormous factor in game playing and deals with balance, she said, "I think I have better balance ability now.





Asymmetrical body development



Tennis elbow







Entanglement

#### Wii woes

Soon after the game was released on the market, a report emerged, saying that playing Wii could contribute to or even cause backaches, "tennis elbow" and other injuries.

It is reported that a Wii game called Guitar Hero, which requires players to pretend they are playing the guitar, led someone to break his knee.

Timesonline reported that the Connors children were thrilled with their new Nintendo game until little Jacob got whacked between the eyes. The family from Hilton Head, South Carolina, were among the first to get their hands on Nintendo's revolutionary Wii console.

A gamer, Scott Sharkey, published an article online in 2006 saying, "We know gamers. Ain't nobody going to remember to slip that goofy strap around their wrist. Hell, you'd make fun of any pansy friends who actually did use the thing. As a public service we've taken it upon ourselves to explore all the dangerous possibilities of improper

#### Wii facts

The British Medical Journal published an article in 2007 saying, "do not count on burning tons of calories playing Wii Sports games.

The report quotes a research study from experts at the Research Institute for Sport and Exercise Sciences in Liverpool, England, saying that kids and adults can burn more calories if they play real sports.

The energy used when playing active Wii Sports games was not of high enough intensity to contribute towards the recommended daily amount of exercise in children," Gareth Stratton, PhD, and his colleagues wrote.

Zhuo Xueming, an expert on physical study in The Third Hospital of Beijing University, also suggests people go out and take part in real sports. For one thing, vou can breathe much cleaner air. For another, real sports do little harm to your body.

He mentioned that sports activities need attention. Wii allows people to have fun, but distracts their attention from real sports, so it might be detrimental. "Doing sports with real-life attention is healthier than doing it as a distraction," he said.

#### Case studies

The British Medical Journal said Stratton's team studied 11 healthy teens between 13 and 15 years old who played hockey, volleyball, soccer or rugby at their schools. The teens also played sedentary computer games.

Each teen spent 15 minutes playing a sedentary computer game - ProjectGotham Racing 3 on the Xbox 360 system. After a brief rest, they played Wii bowling, tennis and boxing games of Wii Sports, spending 15 minutes on each activity.

As they played, the teens wore devices that gauged their physical activity.

That device did not capture the teens' arm movements. That oversight may have led to underestimates of how many calories the teens actually burned.

Still, Stratton's team concluded that in a typical week of computer gaming, Wii Sports would only bump up burned calories by

#### candidate 1. Last year. 2. Prince of Persia.

Sun Yibo, 26, PhD

- 3. Nearly every day.
- 4. Never
- 5. Sure.
- 6. Games are always good for your health since they make people happy.

#### Luo Hang, 27, programmer

- 1. Last September.
- 2. I get the latest releases. But my favorite games always make me move and dance.
  - 3. Three times a week?
  - 4. I hit my table once.
  - 5. Never.
- 6. Come on, it is only a game. Don't make it so noble. It does not make any improvements to your health. If you wanna do that, go to the gym that's more effective.

#### Aki Nana, 20, student

- 1. Spring Festival.
- 2. Sports games. I think it's called Wii fit?
- 3. Twice or thrice per week.
- 4. Never. But my mom nearly broke the television.
- 5. Quite an interesting theory. I think so
- 6. It improved our mental health! Ha!

#### June Zhang, 25, integrated marketing communications specialist

- Two month ago.
- 2. Tennis, bowling, fishing, golf.
  - 3. Once a day.
  - 4. Never.
  - 5. Na.
- 6. Creative technology, at least it's better for those who are crazy for keyboard and joystick games.



Kawa Karpo, sacred to Tibetan Buddhists, is an annual pilgrimage site.

Photos provided by Han Manman

#### Kawa Karpo's deity

The Meili Snow Mountain in the east suburb of Deqin County is known for its main peak, the Kawa Karpo, which at an elevation of 6,470 meters above sea level is the tallest in Yunnan Province. Kawa Karpo is surrounded by 13 lesser peaks; it is extolled as the most beautiful mountain in the world.

Kawa Karpo is sacred to Tibetan Buddhists, and has been an annual pilgrimage site for thousands of years. In late autumn and early winter, pilgrims from Tibet, Sichuan, Qinghai and Gansu provinces travel hundreds of kilometers to pay homage to the sacred mountain. They prostrate their way around the holy mountain for one to two weeks. This is called "circumambulation" by local residents. Each Goat Year in the Tibetan Calendar, the number of "circumambulators" increases a hundredfold.

Locals are fond of recounting the cautionary tale of one of many "illfated" mountaineering expeditions:

In 1991, a team of seventeen Chinese and Japanese mountaineers came to climb Kawa Karpo. As the team slowly made its way up the mountain, with no sign of bad weather in sight, the local Tibetans began to wonder why Kawa Karpo was letting himself be conquered by people, let alone foreigners.

A crowd gathered at the nearby Feilai Temple to curse the deity, and some women lifted up their dresses in the direction of the mountain. When the climbers broke camp during their ascent, resting up to plateau at the summit the next day, the weather suddenly changed and an avalanche engulfed the camp. All seventeen climbers died and their remains were not located for seven years.

The four seasons in the snowcapped Meli are distinctly different. Between the foot and the summit are several systems of plant distribution, transitioning from the tropical zone to the northern frigid zone. Above the snowline, there are steep snow-capped peaks encircled by cloud and mist, but below it are evergreen trees and blooming flowers.

By Han Manman

Meili Snow Mountain is a holy mountain in the heart of Tibetan culture and a sacred pilgrimage site for Tibetan Buddhists. The distant and mysterious peak Kawa Karpo still has not been conquered by any human climber, despite multiple expeditions from UK, US, Japan and China climbing teams.

During his journey around the peak in 1923, US adventurer and botanist Joseph Rock said the peak was "isolated towards the east of the main range and is the most beautiful of the entire chain resembling an ice palace from a fairy tale, or an enormous mausoleum with gigantic steps and buttresses, all crowned by a huge majestic dome of ice tapering into a spire of ethereal blue, almost transparent, merging into an azure sky."

#### **Getting there**

Kunming has an international airport and is a common stopover in Yunnan. Direct buses run all the way to Zhongdian, formerly Shangri-La. From Zhongdian there are buses bound for Deqin. It is a long ride on bad roads, so spend some time in Zhongdian before boarding the bus, which will take

you over several passes over 4 kilometers in altitude. If you start from Lijiang, you should apply for a four to six-day private tour with the local travel agency. Any local innkeeper can help you to apply. The agency's tour is safer and saves time. Do not worry about the guide taking you to buy things - the Lijiang travel agency is comparatively mature. A four-day tour from Lijiang to Meili is 550 yuan in the off season

#### Important Reminder

Tourists with heart disease and hypertension should not make the trip as high altitudes may worsen their condition or trigger an attack.

Bring warm clothes - it is very cold in the morning and evening – and cold and stomach medicine. Having Hong Jing Tian, Tibetan herbal medicine or butter tea two days ahead of the trip may prevent an adverse reaction to the altitude.

It is a very long bumpy road to Meili, so take ome pills to combat car sickness.

#### **Hiking Mingyong Glacier**

At Kawa Karpo's base runs Mingyong, a long stretch of white silk-like glacier. The glacier is a geographical rarity, given its low latitude and high altitude.

Originating from Kawa Karpo and dropping to an elevation of 2,650 meters off the east face of Kawa Karpo, Mingyong Glacier stretches twelve kilometers. Crystal-clear and sparkling, the ice makes its way very slowly from high on the peak down to Mingyong village. It is considered to be the world's finest monsoon glacier, and is remarkable for its descent to such a low altitude.

The local government has constructed a safer, more reverent and environmentally sound way of viewing the glacier. Head out from Mingyong's main square, where a comfortably graded trail rises alongside the tumbling icefall and cuts through a hardwood forest before opening to wooden viewing ramparts. You will be close enough to feel the cool

Two beautiful temples, spaced about half an hour apart, break up the hike and offer simple lodging as well as prayer-flag-fringed vistas of the glacier's jagged surface.

Many visitors prefer to have a closer look at the glacier by hiking. However, be prepared to face a tiring two- to three- hour mountain journey along a path dotted with horse manure. For a more leisurely ascent, hire a mule or horse for 120 yuan to carry you part of the way.

#### Best viewing time and place

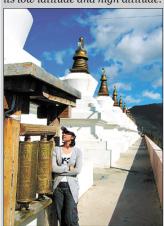
Winter and spring are the ideal times to view Meili Snow Mountain. You can see a panoramic view of the thirteen towering peaks from Feilai Temple, west of Deqin County and the nearest best village to stay in on any Meili journey.

Get up before six o'clock to see the sunrise. The continuous mountain ridges are capped by snowy peaks, and the sun throws golden light across the low-floating clouds.

The mountain presents itself as a mystery shrouded in dense fog and clouds. Locals say anyone who catches a clear view of the whole snow mountain is destined for good luck.



Mingyong Glacier is famous for its low latitude and high altitude.



These white towers are a tupical sight in Meili.



A Tibetan engraves Buddhist

# Scent a city from its airpor

When you are dispatched to a distant land on business or tour, the airport is often your first chance to learn about local life. It will show if the city's transportation system is developed, if it is

tropical or values nature, what its cuisine is like and what it has in store for shoppers. To some extent, the airport is the host city in miniature.



#### **Amsterdam Airport** Schiphol: everything is possible

In Amsterdam Airport Schiphol in the Netherlands, it seems that everything is possible. You can view artistic masterpieces, shower and rest, talk with people through glass walls, enjoy church services and have your own wedding ceremony.

#### **Holland** Casino

The Holland Casino, between gates E and F, is a good place to have fun playing games duty-free while you wait for your flight. There are 100 slot machines and five tables for American Roulette and Black Jack open from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm. Entrance is free, but only people 18 years old and up may enter. Identification and a boarding pass are needed.

Meditation Center

Schiphol has a Meditation Center for all religions available only to passengers At the center, there is a selection of books from different religions in various languages available for perusal. On Sundays, there is a church service at 11 am. Services alternate between a mass, an Anglican service or a Protestant service. The center is manned from 9 am to 5 pm.

#### Talking through glass walls

With the two special phones in Arrival 3, which can be recognized by the red and white square tiles around the logo on the glass wall, passengers can talk with their children, good friends or dear ones while they wait to claim their bags.

The airport is also a romantic place for lovers to have their wedding ceremony and offers a speedy escape route when it is time for the honeymoon.



entrance to Amsterdam Airport



#### Singapore Changi Airport: a garden with planes on the side

Singapore is famous for its tidiness and clean environment. The same can be said of its Changi Airport, located 20 kilometers from downtown Singapore

#### Gardens

Many tourists find Changi Airport is more garden than airport. It has several botanical gardens. The bamboo garden is in T1, near gatehold room D46 at Transit Mall East, level 2. The bamboo garden features more than five species of bamboo including Buddha's Belly Bamboo, Yellow Bamboo and Black Bamboo.

The Cactus Garden is also in the T1 building, and is next to Harry's Bar at

Transit Mall West, Level 2. Voted Singapore's best rooftop garden in the 2001 Singapore Garden City Award, the Cactus Garden show cases more than 40 species of cacti and succulents found mostly in the American and African regions. Experience a close shave with the Golden Barrels, Silver Touch, Oldman Cactus, Prickly-Pear and Club-Foot. There is also a collection of succulents such as Cycads, Euphorbias and Dracaenas.

In T2 building, there is an Orchid Garden, Fern Garden and Sunflower Garden. The Orchid Garden on floor

two has 15 species of orchids displayed on different natural structures, including a number of them tied on driftwood overhanging a Koi Pond. The national flower of Singapore, Vanda Miss Joaquim, is occasionally displayed at the garden. The Fern Garden and Sunflower Garden are on the second and third floor of T2 building.

Whether you are waiting to transfer or to start your journey, the airport has plenty to do. There are napping houses available to passengers in both terminal buildings. A one-hour nap in a private room costs SG \$10. There are also double rooms available

You can have a refreshing shower or a relaxing massage. Nail care, foot reflexology and a gym can help kill time or refresh you after a long flight. The centers are open 24 hours a day in both terminal buildings

If you have at least five hours to spare before your connecting flight, you can register for a two-hour sightseeing tour of Singapore. You can choose between a Colonial Tour, Cultural Tour or a Lifestyle Tour. The tour counters' operating hours are from 8 am to 4:25 pm. All tours are conducted in English

#### Kansai International Airport: a variety of food

Kansai International Airport was built at the exorbitant cost of building an artificial island in Osaka Bay, some 40 kilometers south of Osaka proper. Unlike Tokyo's Narita, Kansai offers good domestic connections throughout Japan, making it a good choice for a transition.

The airport's single terminal, designed by Italian architect Renzo Piano, is reputedly the longest building in the world at 1.7 kilometers from end to end. Arrivals are on the first floor; departures are from the fourth. There are several currency exchange points in both areas **Delicious dining** 

Kansai International Airport is like a shopping mall and a paradise for sampling delicious dishes. You can taste all varieties of typical Japanese fare in the airport, but at a reasonable price – at least as tourist destinations go.

In Osaka, some people go to the airport for parties and dinners. It takes about an hour to get to the airport from Osaka's downtown.

The airport also has Chinese, Korean and western restaurants. Many restaurants specialize in noodles, barbecue, snacks, cakes, curry, or serve as combination coffee shops and bars.

(By Jackie Zhang)



Typical Japanese dolls can be found in



The waiting hall in Kansai Airport

# Squeaking vs moaning

By Andy Clark

There is an old saying in English that goes "The squeaky wheel gets the grease." Imagine that you are cycling to work and suddenly your rear wheel starts to squeak like a wounded mouse. The first point of call would be your friendly neighbourhood bike mechanic who would get out his can of oil and apply liberally to alleviate the problem.

For me the phrase simply means that those that speak up loudly will often get the results they want and see changes happen. As the saying goes, "Ask and you shall receive." I think this expression has a similar meaning. After a few years experience working at and training for a number of different companies I have certainly seen this adage to hold true and believe that by encouraging "squeaking" you can have a good insight into the needs of your team and develop your company accordingly.

Too often there is a lack of squeaking in Chinese companies. Squeaking is certainly to be encouraged ... with one careful exception that should be clearly outlined. There is a very big difference between a "squeak" and a "moan." Squeaks are positive, specific, future tense and action-oriented and they are also directed toward the person responsible for making changes.

Some good squeak examples are:

"Please make sure that you send the information at least two days before the deadline in future."

"Could you help me to access my account? I keep getting an error message that reads 3110."

"It would be great if next time you could make sure to bring Clark Morgan pens so



Photo by Maxppp

that we impress the clients."

"Make sure to always smile when you are on the phone to clients."

Moans in contrast are negative and either past or present with no action given and often over generalize. Also they are usually made to those who are not responsible for taking action.

Some common moans for instance are:

- "This e-mail looks terrible!"
- "I can't work the database."
- "She's so stupid."
- "He never listens to me."

Squeaking takes on the belief that things

will change and improve – which I can attest to – with enough squeaking they certainly will!

Moaners have a negative outlook that things are bad and so to make themselves feel better they make others feel bad — therefore sharing their negativity and creating a really "bad vibe" in the office.

So how do you create a culture of squeakers in your company in China? Some ideas are:

Lavish encouragement and praise on your squeakers, have an award for "squeaker of the month," put a poster on the wall with a cool squeaking mouse and a miserable moaning old man and splash "Squeak don't moan" on it, have a squeak box for employees to write their squeaks, have squeak time during meetings. And how do you get rid of the moaners? Give two warnings, one verbal, one written when moaning becomes a problem. Also you may want to fire your head moaner, as their moaning will almost certainly spread ... you'll have a team of squeakers in no time! Andy Clark NLP Master Trainer and Co-founder of ClarkMorgan Training clarkmorgan.com

### **Outdoors**

#### Immortal Valley Loop

You will discover a lot on the Immortal Valley Loop hike – many pools filled with clear spring water, waterfalls, big trees, wild flowers some of the Great Wall, the Miyun Reservoir, and beautiful views of valleys and mountains.

Where: Meet on the ground floor of Starbucks (Jiangtai Lu, Lido Holiday Inn)

**When:** 8:30 am – 5:30 pm, May 10 **Cost:** 250 yuan

Tel: 13910025516 (reservations are

# Yellow River, sand dunes and desert

Ningxia, situated in the eastern part of the northwest inland, was once an important stop along the north Silk Road, connecting Central Asia, the northern desert and inland plains.

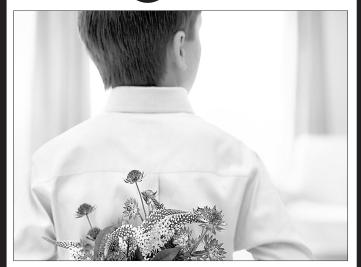
This trip will take you to the Tengger Desert, Xixia Tombs, and the Ming Great Wall. Tengger Desert is interrupted at Shapoutou by the Yellow River, resulting in a huge sand dune. The Famous Xixia Tombs is one of the main tourist spots in Ningxia, located 30 kilometers west of Yinchuan. The Ming Great Wall is worth visiting, which has won the award as one of the "50 most must-see Chinese spots for foreigners."

**When:** fly to Yinchuan on the evening of May 9 and fly back on May 11

Cost: 4,250 yuan

**Tel:** 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (reservations are essential)

# Dining



**Bubbly Sundays brunch** 

Delight your senses with free-flowing Piper-Heidsieck champagne and all the beer and wine you can drink. Live cooking stations will offer specialties like Peking duck, homemade Italian pasta, caviar chilled in ice pots, hand rolled sushi and sashimi, fresh seafood, an outdoor BBQ and decadent desserts. Live entertainment and gifts are also available just for mothers.

Where: Senses and Prego, Westin Beijing, 99 Jinrong Jie, Xicheng Open: 11:30 am – 3 pm, May 11 Cost: 338 yuan (alcoholic), 268 (non-alcoholic) and 118 yuan (chil-

Cost: 338 yuan (alcoholic), 268 (non-alcoholic) and 118 yuan (children under 12) (all prices subject to a 15 percent service charge)

Tel: 6606 8866

#### Plaice (flatfish) promotion

Die Kochmutzen has plaice on the menu! You can savor filleted, batered and pan-fried plaice together with sauce and lemon slices.

Where: Die Kochmutzen, 718, Building 7, Jianwai SOHO, 39 Dongsanhuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang

**Open:** 11 am – 11 pm

**Tel:** 5869 3830

(By Li Jing)

# Nightlife C

#### Muma and Third Party Beijing concert

Muma, partnered with Third Party, premieres a new album at Star live.

**Where:** Star Live, F/3, Tangguo Building, Yonghegongqiao Bei, Chaoyang

When: 8:30 pm, May 9 Admission: 100 yuan (door), 60 yuan (advance) Tel: 6425 5677

## Martin Eyerer world tour

**Where:** White Rabbit Club, C2, Haoyun Jie, 29 Zaoying Lu, Chaoyang

When: 10 pm - morning (next day), May 9 Cost: 60 yuan

# The beach party

Tel: 13321123678

Where: Block 8, 8 West Gate of Chaoyang Park, Chaoyang

**When:** 9 pm – 3 am (next day), May 9

**Cost:** 100 yuan **Tel:** 6508 8585

If you have any info for this page, please send it to lixiaojing@ynet.com

#### Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

# The inside story on "living out of hotels"



By Charles Zhu

I took a great interest in jazz and American pop. Whenever I hear uniquely American rhythms I am invariably reminded of the open commons and the summer nights on the Esplanade on the Charles River. I had many records by The Police and those recorded by Sting after he exited the group. He plays guitar, bass guitar, mandolin, piano, harmonica, saxophone and even pan pipes.

The other day when I heard Chris Botti, an American contemporary jazz trumpeter whom Sting called his "evil younger brother," say at his press conference that he would come to Beijing for a performance tour during the second half of May, I was very happy and anticipated listening to his music.

At the press conference he said that he lived "out of hotels." He said that he had one bag, his trumpet, one band, his crew, a yoga mat and that was his permanent residence. It amused me tremendously. I wondered how he would survive with a host family in Beijing

since he would not be living in a hotel. However, when he went on to say that he "plays frequently around the world and the only place he calls home is the inside of a hotel room," I was immensely confused.

Since he said that he lived out of hotels, how could he call home the inside of a hotel room? It seemed very contradictory to me.

I looked the expression up in the dictionary and it said that "out of" may mean "from within." For instance, she took a piece of candy out of the box. It may also mean "so as to have left; no longer in," such as, in another year, he will be out of the army. If something is beyond the reach of your observation, you may say, it is out of sight. Of course, the most frequent use of the phrase means "from," for instance, a house made out of bricks. With all those reasonable meanings laid out in front of me, it was very hard to make sense of the expression, "live out of hotels."

I went to ask my American friend Derrick who is young and well-versed with

American colloquialisms. He said he could perfectly understand the meaning of what Chris Botti had said. Yes, he is used to living out of a hotel and the only place he calls home is the inside of a hotel room. He said, "The phrase probably comes from 'to live out of a suitcase.' If a man lives out of a suitcase, it means his suitcase has everything he needs to survive on the road," Derrick said.

The light at last dawned on me and I came to understand it. However, there is still a difference between the phrases. In the phrase "to live out of hotels," "out of" virtually means "in" while in the phrase "to live out of a suitcase," "out of" means "from." So, you can see how complicated a language can be.

"To live out of hotels" like "to live out of a suitcase" is American colloquial English. It makes me believe that to learn a language calls for a life-long effort as language is a living thing that constantly evolves as time goes by. This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.



Photo by Derrick Sobodash

# Parity supermarket

By Derrick Sobodash

Store names are notoriously difficult to translate, especially when its Chinese name is just a description of its business. An English translation, even if correct, usually does not sound like a store name to an English reader. Such is the case with the "Parity Supermarket" near the Liulichang antique street.

Parity has a lot of meanings depending on who is reading it. To an economist, it might mean the official value to which a good is supposed to be pegged. An engineer may see it and start thinking of bits passed to determine if data was transmitted correctly. A mathematician may think it has something to do with even or odd numbers. The midwife may think it has something to do with how many children the owners of the supermarket have had.

That makes parity a really bad word to use in your store name, especially when your products are potato chips, tofu strips and a soda with which to wash them down.

The first part of the Chinese, pingjia, just means the store charges what it is supposed to charge - a claim that should cause any cautious buyer's eyebrows to raise. So running with that, this store is trying to advertise fair, possibly even bargain prices for its products. It might make sense then to call it the "Bargain Market," "Value Market" or "Fair Market." Granted those names sound like stores so hillbilly, the customers likely have fewer teeth than fingers

Ideally, the store would just make up a new English name for itself. Something entirely new and perhaps playing on Chinese sounds. Failing that, the translator's cop out of "Pingjia Market" would at least sound better than "Parity Supermarket."

# Local professor: Zhu Shida

 There will be thousands of foreigners visit Beijing.

Can you see what is wrong with this sentence? The problem with it is that in a sentence including the phrase, "there will be," the second verb must not take the original form. It has to be a gerund. So, if you say, "There will be thousands of foreigners visiting Beijing," it will be perfect.

2. A person was arrested after withdrew 410,000 yuan from the ATM.

The problem with this sentence lies in the adverbial clause of "after." As you know, in an adverbial clause there has to be a complete sentence with a subject, predicate and object. So, in this case, it would be: "A person was arrested after he withdrew 410,000 yuan from the ATM." However, with an adverbial clause, you can sometimes use the simplified form with the main verb in the form of a participle. For instance, "A person was arrested after withdrawing 410,000 yuan from the ATM." In this structure, you must pay attention to the consistency of the subject. Namely, the doer of the action must be identical.

#### Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week

#### Native Speaker: Joe Edwards

1. There will be thousands of foreigners visit Beijing.

This sentence states a fact and the first thing the foreign visitors will do is probably correct your English. To grammatically adjust the above sample sentence properly is simple. All you have to do is add the letters "ing" to one word. Can you guess what word that is? If you said "Beijing," I am worried about you. Besides, it already has an "ing," it does not need two. The word we need to stick the "ing" tail on is "visit." The sentence now reads, "There will be thousands of foreigners visiting Beijing."

2. A person was arrested after withdrew 410,000 yuan from an ATM machine.

There a couple of ways you can fix this grammatically-challenged sentence. Adverbial clauses starting with the word, "after" follow certain rules. One forces you to construct a complete sentence after "after." For example, "A person was arrested after he withdrew 410,000 yuan from an ATM." Can you spot the complete sentence here containing a subject, verb and object following the word, "after?" There it is, "he withdrew 410,000 yuan from an ATM." Another easy fix is to change the main verb to a participle giving you, "A person was arrested after withdrawing 410,000 yuan from an ATM."



# CASANOVA (2005)

#### Movie of the Week

Casanova, by Academy Award-nominated director Lasse Hallstrom, creates a sharp, sophisticated modern comedy from the long-running legend of Giacomo Casanova, the Renaissance-era spy, soldier, writer, philosopher and adventurer who became famed as a notorious lover of women. Though his life and loves have been explored in dozens of screen incarnations, he has never been seen in a so essentially human predicament: befuddled by his stolen heart and trying to become a better man in his own clever fashion. The film is the director's most delightfully romantic and comedic work to date – as well as a playful exploration into the timeless conflicts between repression and sensuality, disguises and identity, desire and love.

#### Synopsis

1700s Venice – He was the legendary adventurer whose amorous dalliances would go on to inspire countless lovers throughout the centuries. She was the most prolific writer of her time who was waiting to find that rare man with a true understanding of steadfastness and passion. When Giacomo Casanova (Heath Ledger) discovered Francesca Bruni (Sienna Miller), he met his ultimate romantic match, surrendering to the only woman ever to refuse his charms ... until he could prove himself to be the one man worthy of her romantic ideals.



#### Scene 1

Victoria: Bishop<sup>(1)</sup> Pucci Pucci: How can I help you my lear?

**Victoria:** I was a virgin. My virginity was my most cherished possession. My gift from God. My gift was taken from me.

**Pucci:** Tragic and most damnable. What was the name of this vile seducer?

Victoria: Giacomo Casanova. When Casanova came to my room and ... robbed me ... I fought for my honour

Pucci: Are you saying that you would be willing to give me the testimony <sup>(2)</sup>that I need to hang him?

**Victoria:** Yes. But I would be worried about my reputation.

**Pucci:** Of course. But I think we could say if everything went according to plan, we could return your reputation and your virginity.

Victoria: You could do that? Pucci: Oh, yes. We are the Catholic Church. We can do anything.

#### Scene 2

Andrea: (after seeing Francesca with Casanova) Such bad news for you, Signor Paprizzio.

Lord Papprizzio:(silence)
Lord Papprizzio: Oh! Calamity.
She's thrown me over (3).

Andrea: Disgraceful.

**Lord Papprizzio:** Oh, well. A scandal.

**Andrea:** You're a free man now. **Lord Papprizzio:** Oh, dear. What will I do?

Casanova: I, too, come here to make confession<sup>(4)</sup>. Francesca Bruni: What have

you to confess?

**Casanova:** Well, let's see. Jealousy. Pride. Covetousness. Despair. And you?

**Francesca Bruni:** I came to prepare my soul for marriage.

#### Scene 3

Casanova: I've got to stay here. If I go with you they'll be looking for both of us. It's too dangerous!

**Giovanni Bruni:** What if you never left?

**Casanova:** Casanova, the philosopher? Who devotes his life to the perfection of experience? Yes, I know him.

**Francesca Bruni:** No, Casanova the libertine<sup>(5)</sup>, who devotes his life to seducing women.

**Casanova:** Well, we're obviously talking about the same person.

**Casanova:** I've never sought glory as a lover.

**Sister Beatrice:** What then, Senor Casanova, do you seek?

**Casanova:** A moment that lasts a lifetime.

Francesca Bruni: Give me a man who is man enough to give himself just to the woman who is worth him. If that woman were me I would love him alone and forever.

#### Scene 4

**Giovanni Bruni:** You have sullied<sup>(6)</sup> my glove! I mean, uh, my love. My love.

Casanova: I'm sorry. What did he just call us?

Lupo: We didn't sully it. It just came out of nowhere<sup>(7)</sup>.

Pucci: Casanova bought a pig.

**Pucci:** Casanova bought a pig. Casanova took a pig to Bruni house. Is anyone going to explain this?

**Pucci:** Aha! So we meet Casanova. I find it very hard to believe that this is what women want.

**Giovanni Bruni:** You've sullied my love. Victoria Donato is my fiancée<sup>(8)</sup>.

Casanova: Is she?

Giovanni Bruni: Yes. In the sense that I am going to marry her. Casanova: Ah. Well, she never

mentioned that. **Giovanni Bruni:** Of course she didn't. I haven't asked her yet.

Casanova: To say I love falsely is as contradictory<sup>(9)</sup> as to say I believe falsely.





- **1. Bishop:** a senior priest in charge of the work of the church in a city or district.
- **2. Testimony:** a thing that shows that something else exists or is true, or a formal written or spoken statement saying what you know to be true, usually in a court of law.
- **3.** Throw somebody over: to stop being friends with somebody, to deceive them.
- 4. Confession: a statement admitting something that you are ashamed or embarrassed about; the act of making such a statement, or a private statement to a priest about the bad things that you have done, especially in the Roman Catholic Church.
- **5. Libertine:** a person, usually a man, who leads an immoral life and is interested in pleasure, especially sexual pleasure.
- **6. Sully:** to spoil or lower the value of something, or to make something dirty. **7. Come out of nowhere:** To suddenly appear unexpectedly.
- **8. Fiancée:** the woman a man is engaged to marry.
- **9. Contradictory:** containing or showing opposite meanings, as in, "We are faced with two apparently contradictory statements."

(By Li Fenghua)